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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What did you do with your stimulus check?

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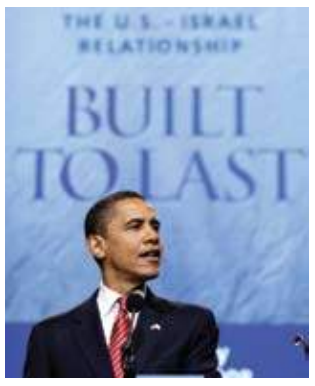
INSIDE



Running Mate

Barack Obama turned to the hunt for a running mate Wednesday.

NATION...Page 24

Truck Bomb

A truck packed with rockets blew up Wednesday in a Shiite area of Baghdad, killing 18 people.

WORLD...Page 27

Baseless

"ET" aired a story about the birth of Angelina Jolie's twins despite being told that the report was baseless.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 34

> "People have cut costs down enough that now it's going to cut into their bottom line if costs go up again and they have to reduce even more."
>
> —James Arenovski, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce

Wage hike cuts into benefits

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
BUSINESS EDITOR

The recent minimum wage hike in the Commonwealth is forcing many businesses to scale back worker benefits to remain in operation, according to a recent survey of key business leaders.

Proponents of the increased wages, set to rise again by 50 cents each year until they meet the federal level, have long said the hike is needed to ensure workers are fairly paid compared to their counterparts on the U.S. mainland. Yet the mandate for higher pay has left some local employers—who are also facing sky-

See WAGE on Page 4

Gas price hike rumor triggers panic buying

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rumors about another gas price hike triggered panic buying among many motorists on Saipan yesterday, resulting in long lines at many gas stations on island.

See GAS on Page 4

Dozens of motorists are seen refueling at the Mobil gas station on Beach Road in Garapan yesterday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

FESTIVAL STARTS TODAY

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Mayor's office staff Press Camacho and Rey Tudela work on building the stage yesterday in preparation for this year's Liberation Day Festival, which will kick off today, June 6, at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Federal officials to descend on NMI

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal officials are expected to visit in the next few weeks to initial talks on the U.S. government's imminent takeover of the local immigration control.

Pete A. Tenorio, the Commonwealth's resident representative to Washington, D.C., reported that various federal agencies have begun preliminary discussions about how the "federalization" of CNMI immigration will be applied.

Tenorio said the Northern Marianas can expect a team of officials from the U.S. departments of Homeland Security and Labor to visit next month to meet with

See FEDERAL on Page 4

Tenorio

CUC pays Telesource $357K for diesel supply. PAGE 2
OIA declines to fund NMI delegate election. PAGE 2

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Local

CUC pays Telesource $357K for diesel supply

Telesource says it has only one-day fuel supply left

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
BUSINESS EDITOR

Saipan's primary electricity supplier, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., is preparing to settle a major unpaid debt to a company on Tinian that resulted in power outages on the island and later prompted a stern rebuke from lawmakers.

In an interview Thursday, CUC executive director Antonio Muna said the utility plans to pay Telesource, the company that operates Tinian's power plant, the money it is owed "by Monday" of next week.

Muna added that he signed off yesterday on roughly $357,000 as payment for the power plant's diesel fuel needs after Telesource declared in a statement the same day it had only a one-day supply and would have to cut power unless CUC provided more.

Whether or not the fuel would reach Tinian before the island lost power was unclear as of press time. In its statement Thursday, Telesource said that CUC "has a contractual obligation" to supply the fuel and cautioned customers that "power on Tinian may be shut down imminently if the fuel tanks are not replenished."

On Wednesday, Telesource demanded that CUC pay its monthly debts to the company for operating and maintaining the power plant, saying the CUC had failed to make its payment for the month of May on a series of $180,000 promissory notes. This breach of contract, according to strongly worded letter from Commonwealth Sens. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Henry San Nicolas (C-Tinian), forced Telesource to deny power service to some customers on the island.

Telesource's general manager Jeffery Barr in a June 4 letter to Muna said the company needs the payments to meet the obligation of third-party loans and without it, Telesource cannot pay for supplies like lubrication oil.

Muna explained that CUC was unable to make the payments on time because the utility is facing a long-standing funding shortfall even after its recent rate hike.

"The bottom line is that CUC's financial condition is adverse," Muna said, noting that the utility has an estimated $9 million in debts, many of those owed to Telesource.

CUC's increase in rates, he added, still carry a "two-month" lag between the time customers pay the utility and when that money is available to fund repairs, maintenance and pay off debts. CUC is working on a plan to pull itself out of its current financial trouble yet without more funding from the government, the utility's options are limited, Muna said.

On Tinian's fuel needs, Muna added that the high cost of diesel fuel has contributed to the problem, although CUC tries to maintain an 11-day supply on the island.

OIA declines to fund NMI delegate election

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of the Interior has declined the local government's request for money to conduct the election for a Northern Marianas delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio asked OIA for help. He said the local government cannot afford its first federal election because of budgetary problems, which are expected to get worse next fiscal year.

The Commonwealth Election Commission has estimated the election to cost at least $50,000.

Nikolao I. Pula, director of the Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs, said the states and the territories have traditionally paid for the election of their representatives or delegates.

"The voters of the CNMI will choose the delegate, and it is the responsibility of these voters, through their government and their financing mechanism, to fund the CNMI election process," said Pula.

Tenorio, in a letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, suggested that the administration ask the Commonwealth Legislature to appropriate funds for the Nov. 3, 2008 election.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios has said the House of Representatives is looking at possibly transferring money from the soon-to-be-defunct resident representative's office to the election.

Tenorio's current office has an average budget of $1 million a year. Since the office will cease to exist by January 2009, Tenorio has requested only one third of this amount for fiscal year 2009.

The federal government will pay for the expenses of the Northern Marianas delegate, including the delegate's salary which is currently at $169,300 a year.

The Northern Marianas delegate seat was included in recently enacted legislation that allows the U.S. government to take over local immigration control.

The Interior Department has helped pushed for a delegate measure. Pula, in his letter to Tenorio, congratulated the Commonwealth on getting the seat in the House. "I believe that such representation on Capitol Hill will go far toward gaining proper consideration of CNMI issues in Congress," he said.

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For now, Pete A. remains lone GOP bet for delegate

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While several individuals have announced plans to run for delegate under the NMI Republican Party, only one candidate has formally asked the party to support his congressional bid.

Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio is by far the only one to submit his letter of intent to run as GOP candidate in the Nov. 3 election, according to party president Ed Tenorio.

"Several names have come up, but right now we only have one [potential candidate]," said Tenorio.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul and attorney Victorino Torres have said they are interested in running as Republican candidates, but neither has made it official.

GOP has announced that it will accept letters of intent until 4pm on Wednesday, June 11, 2008. Candidates are required to submit a $7,500 fee with their letter of intent.

A general membership meeting will be held on June 12, at 6pm, at the Garapan Central Park. Proposed amendments to the party bylaws will be presented for action. Prospective nominees for delegate will also be introduced.

The party is planning to conduct a primary if another candidate challenges Tenorio's bid for the GOP endorsement. The tentative date for the primary is July 12, 2008.

Under the delegate act, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years.

The first election will take place this November. To be eligible, a candidate must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen and CNMI resident for at least seven years before the election, and a qualified CNMI voter on the date of the election. A candidate for CNMI delegate must not be running for any other office.

11 students compete in essay contest

Eleven high school students have submitted entries in the "Ties That Bind" Essay Contest that explores the shared history of the United States, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of the Philippines.

The competition, sponsored by the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities and the Philippine Consulate General's Office, is being held to mark the 110th anniversary of Philippine Independence Day. It was open to all high schools in the Commonwealth.

Essayists were required to describe the historical and contemporary connections that bind the CNMI, U.S. and the Philippines in 1,500 words or less. Essays will be scored by a panel of judges who will consider content and logic, vocabulary and grammar.

Winners will be announced at the conclusion of flag raising ceremonies to be held by the Philippine Consulate General's Office at 7am on Sunday, June 8 at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

The first place finisher will receive a round trip for two to Manila. The three-day, two-night visit to the Philippine capital will include a visit to Malacanang Palace and a possible audience with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Second and third place finishers will receive cash prizes. ***(PR)***

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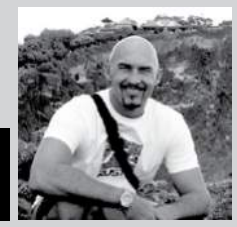

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3 alleged 'ice' traffickers arrested

Members of the Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested three men who were allegedly involved in trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Jun Lin, Dong Huang, and Feichuan Huang, all Chinese nationals, were apprehended for trafficking and possession of a controlled substance.

Lin, Dong Huang, and Feichuan Huang were brought to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing.

The court initially imposed a $100,000 cash bail each for the defendants' temporary liberty.

Police said that Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force members used a "cooperating source" to purchase "ice" from Lin worth a total of $650 last May 1, 30, and June 3.

Police said DEA and Department of Public Safety Narcotics Unit members also used the "cooperating source" to buy $750 worth of "ice" from Dong Huang last April 18 and 19.

A Task Force officer said that DEA members, with the help of Narcotics Unit officers and a "confidential source," managed to buy a total of $1,200 from Feichuan Huang on April 29 and 30, May 30, and June 3. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

A QUIET MOMENT
A tourist spends his afternoon paddling on the waters of Pakpak beach in San Antonio.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bordallo presides over House floor debate

WASHINGTON, D.C.— House Speaker Nancy Pelosi appointed Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo to preside over the House of Representatives yesterday when it resolved into a procedural setting under the Rules of the House of Representatives known as the "Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union" for debate on H.R. 3021, the 21st Century High-Performing Public Schools Facilities Act.

Bordallo is the first Guam Delegate to have been appointed to chair the Committee of the Whole and to preside over debate on the floor of the House of Representatives. She presided earlier yesterday over one hour of general debate on the school construction bill before also presiding over debate on eight separate amendments that were offered to the bill and the recorded votes that were taken on such amendments.

In January 2007, during the opening days of the 110th Congress, the House of Representatives voted to amend its rules to afford the Delegates representing the territories the same rights and privileges possessed by the Representatives from the States when the House meets in the form of the Committee of the Whole. This includes symbolic voting rights on amendments and the ability to preside over debate in the Committee of the Whole.

The Committee of the Whole is a procedure utilized by the House under its rules to expedite debate on and consideration of certain legislation. It is a procedure and practice that dates back to the First Congress in 1789, and facilitates the amendment process for bills called up on the floor of the House.

"I thank Speaker Pelosi for extending the privilege to preside over debate on the House floor to me and to my colleagues from the territories. This is another symbol of inclusion in the legislative process," said Bordallo. "Presiding in the Committee of the Whole reminds our colleagues and those observing debate in the House of Representatives that our American family includes the territories. It increases our involvement in the legislative process. Our participation in the process was enhanced last year when Majority Leader Steny Hoyer sponsored the amendments to the Rules of the House last year that gave us voting rights on amendments and that also afforded us the opportunity to preside over the Committee of the Whole."

H.R. 3021 authorizes $6.4 billion for school construction projects across the United States in fiscal year 2009 for local educational agencies to modernize, renovate, and repair schools to improve teaching and learning climate, health and safety for students, faculty and staff, and energy efficiency. Projects are to be meet "green" building standards, and funds will be administered and awarded by the U.S. Department of Education based on defined eligibility criteria. ***(PR)***

GAS

From Page 1

Vehicles started forming long lines at almost all Mobil and Shell gas stations on the island at 12:30pm when text messages about another gas price increase began spreading.

Text messages and phone calls had it that at 2pm gas prices would hit $5.40 cents a gallon.

Attendants at some Mobil and Shell stations told *Saipan Tribune* that they were surprised when cars began lining up at 12:30pm.

The attendants said the gas price hike was untrue.

At 2:15pm, *Saipan Tribune* checked some gas stations and observed that there were still many vehicles pumping gas despite no such increase being implemented.

A woman who identified herself only as Sylvia said she filled her car to the brim after a friend informed her of news that gas prices would hit over $5 by 2pm.

Letty Santos, who was among those lining up at Mobil Station on Beach Road, Garapan before 2pm, said she rushed to the gas station after hearing about a big price increase.

A construction worker in Kagman said he had to purchase gas in Garapan because the Kagman gas station might run out of gas because of the long lines.

Some people, however, said the increase was not possible, considering that oil prices in the world market were dropping.

Last Wednesday, oil prices fell sharply, dropping below $124 a barrel.

The two oil companies on island had just adjusted their gas prices in the CNMI last week, when crude oil was at $129.07 a barrel.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Dozens of motorists are seen refueling at the Mobil gas station on Middle Road in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

FEDERAL

From Page 1

the Fitial administration, the Legislature, and the business community regarding the new immigration law.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial also announced that Department of the Interior officials, including recently appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Doug Domenech and Office of Insular Affairs Director Nikolao Pula, are coming next week.

In his letter to the governor, Tenorio urged the administration to work with the federal officials in drafting the regulations for implementing the federalization measure.

"The public law is truly just the skeleton of what will eventually become the operational CNMI Transition Program. The 'meat' of the skeleton will be the regulations. I sincerely hope that your administration takes a positive approach to the development of the regulations and participates openly in these discussions," he said.

He added that, by helping draft the regulations, the CNMI government can ensure that local business will continue to be able to hire needed foreign workers, and that China and Russia, the two emerging markets of the local tourism industry, are included in the new visa waiver program.

"I will do what I can, but the true insight into how these new programs will work best lies with your administration," said Tenorio.

The Fitial administration, which had strongly opposed the federalization measures, said it would work with the U.S. government in drafting the regulations.

"We are very eager to help draft the regulations," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. "It's all just getting started, so there isn't a whole lot of concrete action yet. But we'll continue to engage in talks with the federal government."

Five federal agencies have one year to draft the regulations for the new CNMI immigration law. The U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security must work with the State Secretary, the Attorney General, the Labor Secretary, and the Interior Secretary to establish the transition program, which will be in effect from June 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2014.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Theft of wirings

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on any person(s) responsible for the recent thefts of electrical wirings:

- May 28, 2008: Near the 153 Dan Dan Market; 75 feet of stolen electrical drop line wiring.
- May 28, 2008: Near the former KC Market in Tanapag; 85 feet of electrical wiring.
- June 2, 2008: Near the Botanical Garden in Papago; 180 feet of electrical drop line wiring.

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

WAGE

From Page 1

rocketing utility costs and decreasing revenues—with little choice but to cut benefits like housing, health care, transportation, meals and other amenities.

The consequences for worker benefits in light of higher wages are reaching businesses throughout the Commonwealth, according to James Arenovski, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. After the first wage hike last year, he said, businesses focused on increasing efficiency and reducing costs to cover the added expense, yet reducing costs further to adjust for even higher wages will prove challenging.

"People have cut costs down enough that now it's going to cut into their bottom line if costs go up again and they have to reduce even more," Arenovski said. In addition to reducing benefits, he noted that businesses have scaled back on hours of operation and, in some cases, the level of service they offer.

Recent figures from the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands, chaired by Lynn Knight, show the increase has prompted some hotels on the island to take steps like diminishing the number of work hours available for staff, eliminating overtime and reducing the number of employees. Other hotels have increased the fee charged to workers for housing or ended their staff's health insurance, food and housing benefits.

The wage hike is "too large for the economic reality" in the Commonwealth, Knight said, and it is possible that many businesses will have to cut staff and benefits to stay in operation. "I'm worried about how this will impact younger and inexperienced workers" who could be the first laid off due to wage increases. "People need to realize that the money to pay higher wages needs to come from somewhere," she added.

At hotels, the cutbacks in benefits appear largely due to the high proportion of hotel staff on Saipan receiving higher pay after the wage increase.

The HANMI survey says 1,199 hotel staff on Saipan and Tinian saw pay increases after the first wage hike and about 1,617—64 percent of hotel staff—saw higher pay after last week's raise, which will result in $1.68 million in added expenses for hotels. This is high when compared to statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, Knight noted, showing that, historically, when the minimum wage is raised nationwide, the increase impacts only about 3 percent of the work force.

"If these increases continue, many businesses will close for sure," one hotel owner said in the survey.

The cutbacks in benefits, another hotel operator said, mean that staff "in reality... will not benefit from the wage increase."

Fishing Base closed for parade

The Garapan Fishing Base Complex—boat launching ramp and the pier facility—will be closed off to all users and the general public starting June 27 through July 7, 2008, for the annual Liberation Day Parade.

In a notice issued yesterday by the 2008 Liberation Day Steering Committee and the Saipan Mayor's Office, it said that boaters and fishermen can still use the parking area near the former Ship Ashore Restaurant.

In addition, the stretch of Beach Road from the Microl Corporation (intersection) to the Horiguchi Building in Garapan will be closed off from 1pm to 6pm on July 4 to make way for the annual parade. All secondary road intersections along the way would also be closed off until the end of the parade.

In addition, the Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section is urging all drivers to be careful while traveling along Beach Road, Garapan. The DPS urges the public to find alternative routes during the closure.

The Liberation Day Festival itself will open starting today, June 6, and will be in operation until July 6 2008. The Liberation Day Parade will be on July 4th at 3pm-6pm, starting from the National Office Supply up to Kristo Rai. The coronation night for the Liberation Day Queen and Royal Court will be on July 2 at 7pm.

The major sponsors of the 2008 Liberation Festivities are Marpac Distributors and Pacific Telecommunications Inc. (PTI).

The public is encouraged to contact Community Development Specialist III Frank Tudela in the Public Relations & Community Programs Division at 664-3200 with any questions. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293
Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. *Filing of application.* *Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laulau Bay Golf Resort Saipan*, (the "Applicant"), has filed its application with the Commonwealth Development Authority for a Qualifying Certificate under the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, (4 CMC §3301, et seq.).

B. *Address.* The address of the Applicant is *Kagman*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

C. *Proposed investment.* The Applicant proposes to invest approximately $*54.2 million* to *construct and operate a golftel facility, including the renovation of its existing 36-hole golf course* located at *Kagman*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

D. *Benefits sought.* The Applicant is applying for tax relief provided by the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, (4 CMC §3301, et seq.) as follows:

Nature of tax:	*Percentage requested:*	*Period requested:*
Business Gross Revenue Tax Abatement	*100* %	*25* years,
Excise Tax Abatement	*100* %	*25* years,
Alcoholic Beverage Tax Abatement	*100* %	*25* years,
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/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to Qualifying Certificate Rules and Regulations, this ad is paid by the Applicant

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Chamber launches new immigration panel

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has launched a new committee in a bid to prepare for the federal government's pending proposal of new immigration regulations after President Bush last month signed legislation federalizing the island's rules for foreign workers and visitors.

The chamber's new committee, which has met twice in recent weeks, aims to influence the Department of Homeland Security's immigration rule-making process with responses from the business community on how the regulations will impact the local economy.

Bush signed the legislation in May and it will bring the Commonwealth's immigration procedures under federal control by June 2009.

"The regulations are on the way and we're trying to have some input," said Chamber president James Arenovski.

A host of unanswered questions remain about the government's pending federalization of local immigration rules, he added, such as how they will affect foreign investors, homeowners and expatriates, what fees will apply to the hiring of foreign workers and how immigration rules will work during the transition from local control to a federalized system.

The new committee hopes to provide DHS with "questions and possible solutions" to the issues that federal authorities will address in the rule-making, he added. To accomplish this task, the committee plans to conduct "focus groups" with the local business community to hear its concerns, he said.

The committee is composed of eight members from various sectors in the local business community, including wholesale companies, the service industry and hotels.

According to an agenda for one of the committee's meetings, members have addressed issues like how best to minimize the negative effects of the new rules on the local economy, how best to engage federal agencies on the issue and the preparation of a document the committee will distributed to federal officials.

Earlier this year, tourism industry leaders also met on Saipan to discuss the new rules and ultimately formed the Marianas Integrated Immigration Task Force. The task force had planned to meet on Guam this week, but the event was cancelled.

Freedom Air staff arrested for alleged theft of company funds

Police arrested on Wednesday an employee of Freedom Air Office on Rota for allegedly stealing the company's $1,400 cash collection for the months of February and March 2008.

Derick Anthony Fujihira Babauta, 26, was arrested on Rota for theft.

In yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman allowed Babauta to post a $200 cash bail and $1,800 in unsecured bond.

Among the conditions for Babauta's temporary liberty is for him not to leave Rota without court's permission.

Detective Francis Manglona stated in his report that during an interview on May 28, 2008, Babauta admitted stealing money from Freedom Air to pay for his car, car insurance, gas money, household needs, and people he owed money from.

Manglona said the defendant had been sending money to his girlfriend who is staying outside Rota.

Babauta allegedly confessed that every time he collects cash from releasing cargo and signs off the airway bill, he would take the money from the box and destroy the airway bill.

Rota police started the investigation on May 26, 2008 when Freedom Air station manager Felicidad Boddy reported the theft.

Boddy showed to police copies of airway bills and money that were unaccounted for and were missing. Boddy said they tried but failed to locate Babauta. The manager said the defendant was also ignoring all their phone calls. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Bill requires CUC to tighten meter reading system

The House of Representatives has passed a bill requiring the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to follow a tighter meter reading procedure.

The measure cleared the Lower House with a 12-4 vote, with Reps. Heinz Hofschneider, Tina Sablan, Edward Salas, and Ray Yumul opposing the bill. Rep. Joseph Reyes abstained. Reps. Oscar M. Babauta, Raymond Palacios, and Rosemond Santos were absent.

Sponsored by Rep. Stanley Torres, the bill was introduced in response to complaints about CUC's inaccurate billings for the customers' power and water usage. The mistakes have been blamed on CUC's practice of sometimes guessing or estimating a customer's usage based on history.

Hofschneider said the House should investigate the root of the problem before taking any action. Sablan agreed and suggested that the bill be sent to committee for further study, but her motion was shot down. Yumul said he wanted to know first how much the new procedure would cost CUC.

The bill is headed to the Senate.

Under the bill, CUC would be required to provide all customers with an actual monthly meter reading of their power and water usage. A notice indicating the meter reading, date of reading, and initial of the meter reader must be taped onto the meter.

If an actual reading cannot be attained, CUC will be required to call the customer to take it. CUC will only be allowed to estimate a meter reading if an actual meter reading cannot be obtained "by any reasonable means."

The bill states that CUC's practice of estimating usage "is faulty and unconscionable given our dire economic situation." The fact that complaints are often ignored by CUC makes the practice "unacceptable," it adds.

"The rising cost of fuel is alarming to everyone in our community and many families and businesses are doing their best to conserve and to keep their utility costs at a minimum. The CUC's method of guessing or estimating a customer's usage does not reflect the current conservation practice of consumers and it certainly demands the question of why the CUC bothers to employ meter readers in the first place," the bill says.

Recently, a residential customer received a monthly power bill showing that she owes CUC $40,000, even though she only used power for 24 hours. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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Teens excited about start of Liberation Day Fest

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Today will be the first day of the Liberation Day Festival—an event that teens on the island have been anxiously waiting for so they could hang out with friends and families.

Also known as the Carnival, the festival will have booths selling a variety of items such as clothes and accessories, different kinds of food, and games.

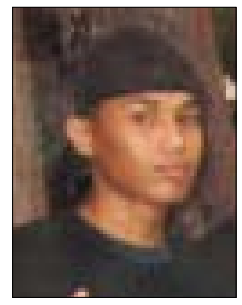
The *Saipan Tribune* went around yesterday to ask teens if they are excited about today's Liberation Day festival opening.

LENA GUZMAN, 16, MHS student: "I am very excited. The carnival is one of the best places to hang out with friends this summer. I basically miss everything. All the rides, food, and performances are great."

MARY ANN GUEVARRA, 18, Liberal Arts major at Northern Marianas College: "Of course I am very excited, especially we will have a performance with my dance group, Project Impact. The number one thing I can't wait is to ride the Octopus. The Octopus is very fun, fast and breathtaking."

JESSELYN SABLAN, 16: "Yes, I am. I really can't wait to go there on Friday. I really enjoy being there because it's fun. My favorite ride is the Octopus. I also love the cultural performances and Polynesian dances."

JR CONCEPTION, 15, 10TH grade in Marianas High School: "I'm excited because it's going to be fun. I'll be hanging out with friends, eating a lot of good food. I would definitely go there this Friday."



MINDY PARK, 18, nursing major at Northern Marianas College: "July 4th has always been the same and it's growing old every year. I'm not too thrilled about it. However, the carnival would be a great place to hang out when there's a blackout."

ROQUE INDALECIO, 18, Education major at Northern Marianas College: "It doesn't really bother me because all these things going on like the power outages and gas prices rising, I don't think people would be ecstatic about this upcoming event."

ZAYNA CAMACHO, 21, Business Management major at Northern Marianas College: "I wouldn't say that I am excited about July 4th, but I think it's a great time to spend time with family and friends. I am hoping that this year would be different, with more rides and games, entertainments and booths and more local food booths."

CHARLYN TECHUR, 19, Business Management major at NMC: "I can't say I'm as excited as I was when I was a child, but I do think it's a good event for the public. It's one of the only events that families, friends, teens, and most especially children look forward to each year. Hopefully there are new games and food!"

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Native medicine group names officers

The Inetnon Åmot Natibu/ Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch (Native Medicine Association) announced yesterday the results of its new election of officers, as called for in its bylaws. The IAN/ASF is chartered in the CNMI in 2007 as a non-profit corporation and the bylaws call for election of officers every year.

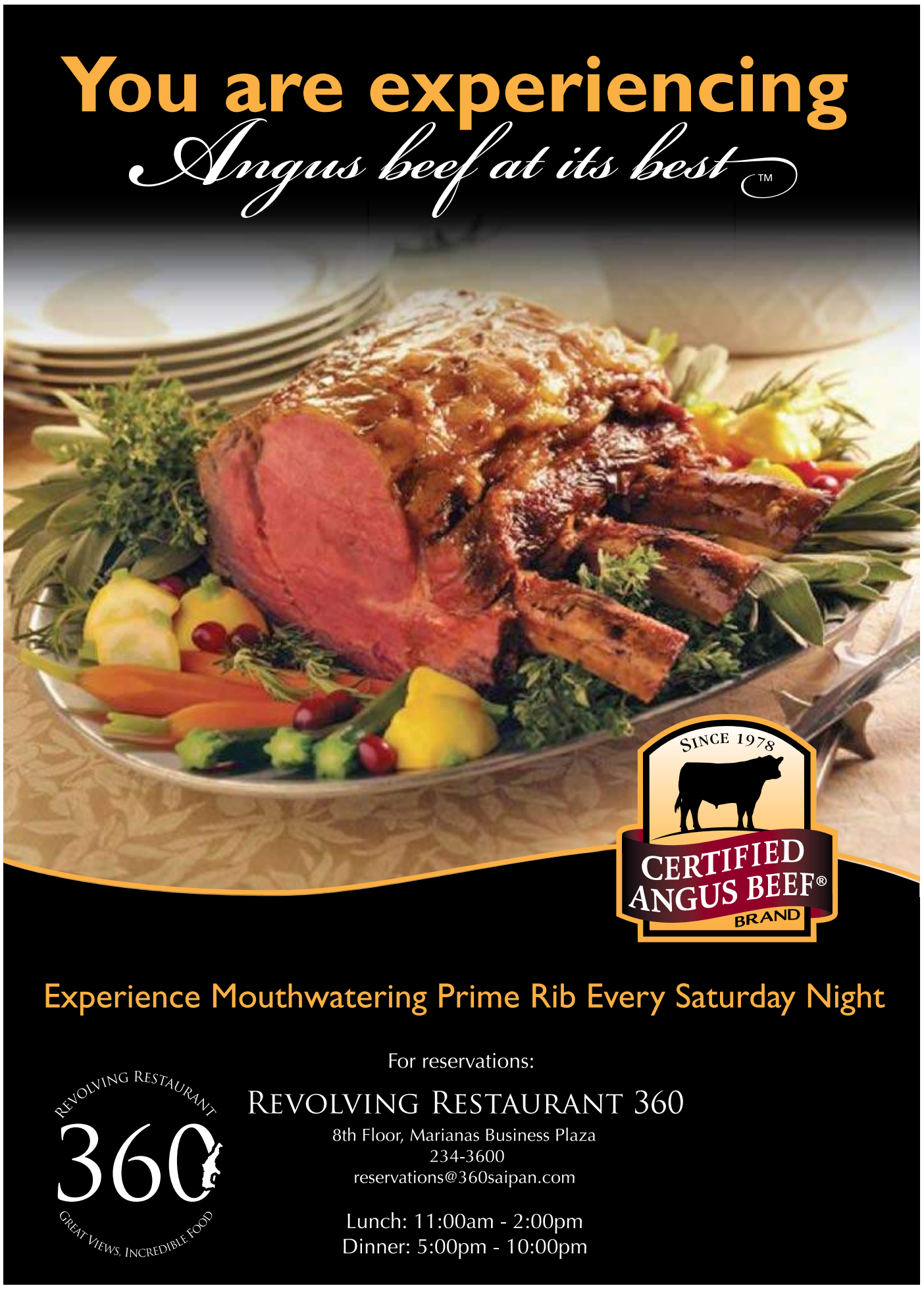
The new Association's president is Isidoro T. Cabrera. Cabrera was the vice president last year and he now replaces former Association's president Emilio Ayuyu. The Association's new vice president is Lino M. Olopai. The Association's secretary and alternate secretary are Frances M. Sablan and Anicia Tomokane respectively. Both held the same position last year. Cynthia P. Reyes also kept her position as the Association's treasurer.

The IÅN/ASF is composed of 15 board members and, in addition to the officers mentioned, they are: Emilio Ayuyu, Ben Borja, John Castro, Patricia Coleman, Vic Deleon Guerrero, Donald Flores, Dave Omar, Noel Quitugua, Liz Rechebei, and Gonzalo Santos.

The Association was organized to: 1) advocate, recognize and support traditional healers, 2) help protect habitats of medicinal plants through restoration, legislation, educational programs, resolutions, community awareness, conferences, workshops, 3) to document this cultural tradition in the vernacular languages, and 4) to publish educational materials, posters, brochures, and also to produce non-print materials such as DVD's, CD's, and TV programming.

The Association applied for a competitive federal grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), and was awarded a grant from ANA, under the title *Enhancement of Cultural Self Sufficiency through Revitalization of Traditional Healing,* to produce a directory of indigenous traditional healers in the CNMI, and to conduct native medicine symposia on Tinian (June 21, 2008) and on Saipan (Aug. 9, 2008). The directory of healers will include indigenous traditional healers from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The directory will also have identification of CNMI medicinal plants. The Association has contracted Manny F. Borja to work on the objectives of the ANA grant project.

In partnership with the Indigenous Affairs office of the Offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor, the IÅN/ASF is housed in building 1213, Capital Hill Road, on Saipan. The office telephone number is 670-322-0278, the fax number is 670-322-0378, the e-mail address ianasfnma@gmail.com, and the mailing address is P.O. Box 5374 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950. The public is welcome to call or visit the office to learn more about CNMI native medicine. ***(PR)***



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JUNE 6, 2000

Teno disapproves FY 2000 budget

Despite last-minute negotiations with lawmakers, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday disapproved the FY 2000 budget, citing potential deficit spending by departments and agencies as well as layoffs of government employees to be hit by proposed cuts barely four months into the next fiscal year. The veto came on the day of expiration of his authority to act on the budget bill before it becomes law without his signature. There is no immediate reaction from the Legislature on his decision which could face override by both chambers.

OIA backs Schorr

The Office of Insular Affairs is standing by its liaison officer in the CNMI Jeffrey Schorr despite moves in the Legislature to call for his ouster in the wake of allegations of on-the-job political activities and smear campaign directed against the islands. Breaking his silence for the first time in three weeks since the report by U.S. House Resources Committee Chair Don Young (R-Alaska), OIA Director Ferdinand Aranza defended his field representative who is facing "condemnation and censure" by local lawmakers.

Former Lt. Gov. Tenorio eyes Washington rep post

Former Lt. Gov. Pete A. Tenorio is eyeing a political comeback next year as he announced his intention to seek the Republican Party's nomination to become its candidate as the CNMI Resident Representative to the United States. This is the second time he submitted a letter of intent to run for the position. In the 1997 general elections, he gave way to Washington Rep. Juan N. Babauta in order to preserve what he said the party's unity.

JUNE 6, 2001

MVA eyes Australian market

The Marianas Visitors Authority plans to lure Australian tourists to the CNMI, according to David M. Sablan, MVA chairman. Australia has an outbound market of about 3.4 million travelers. Sablan said he is planning to begin talks with Qantas, Ansett and other Australian carriers before the year is through.

Fire guts Koblerville house

A Korean family living in Koblerville were shocked by the total loss of their home razed by fire yesterday morning. Businessman Shim Geun, with his wife and kids wallowed in grief as they watched their property burst into flames. Destroyed in the fire were the Shim house and another structure next to the family's residence.

Workers demand transfers

Forget the procedures. Forget the fact that a Labor hearing has been scheduled. Forget what their former employer says about offering their jobs back. They want TWA's and they want them now. This was the message of some 30 Chinese garment workers of L&T, Inc., who staged a peaceful, but persistent protest outside the Office of the Governor yesterday. The women were demanding a temporary work authorization (TWA), which would allow them to work at another factory where they were promised more money.

JUNE 6, 2002

Legislative approval mulled to resolve salary cap issue

In a bid to resolve the problems surrounding the salary cap issue, the Babauta administration is proposing the sanctioning of approximately 166 employees who were hired within the period from October 1, 1998 up to the present, whose salaries go beyond the statutory ceilings. This comes soon after the Office of the Governor, through its legal counsel, Pamela Brown, submitted to Senate President Paul A. Manglona a draft copy of a Senate joint resolution that would retroactively sanction each employee to the date of his or her date of hire or renewal, and at the amount on which the employees were hired.

'You can't ignore us'

The Senate minority bloc has put the Senate leadership on notice that they will not be ignored. In a letter to Senate President Paul A. Manglona, the minority bloc informed the Senate President that they have pre-filed a measure that would make it mandatory for the leadership to inform them in a more timely manner any pertinent businesses that also concerns the minority, such as sessions and leadership meetings.

'Vexatious' litigant is barred from filing cases

Judge imposes many pre-conditions on Pangelinan when filing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Declaring him a vexatious litigant, the federal court has prohibited John S. Pangelinan, previously convicted over a threatening letter, from filing any lawsuit or documents in federal court that is related to a 1997 civil lawsuit filed against him.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood said Pangelinan's actions "have clearly caused, and will continue to cause if not abated, needless work and expense to not only the court and its staff, but to any other party who has incurred his wrath."

"Pangelinan's history of repeated frivolous and vexatious litigation and bad-faith filings, his intentional and willful decision to disobey the valid orders of this court, and his avowed intention to continue in this course of action, leads the court ineluctably to conclude that no other sanction but a narrowly-drawn pre-filing order will be adequate to protect the court and other parties from Pangelinan's relentless assaults," said the judge in her order.

She said that Pangelinan will be allowed to submit court documents but the filing must be accompanied by a motion requesting permission to file the document and a copy of her entire order.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the plaintiff must also show proof that all monetary sanctions previously imposed by a federal court judge in any of the matters mentioned in this order to which he was or is a party have been paid in full.

Another proof, the judge said, is that the plaintiff is required to show cash in an amount to the full filing fee if he seeks to file a new complaint and the original and two copies of the document sought to be filed.

The cash will be returned to Pangelinan if the court disallows the filing.

The judge said any attempted filing by plaintiff will be received, but not filed, by the clerk of court and delivered to a judge for review and a determination if the proposed filing violates the terms and conditions of her order.

Tydingco-Gatewood said if the filing is deemed to violate this order, a miscellaneous file will be opened and Pangelinan's proposed filing and an order prohibiting him will be placed in the file, which will then be closed.

If the filing is deemed not to violate the order, and all filing fees have been paid, a civil file will be opened and Pangelinan may proceed.

On May 16, 2008, district court designated judge Juan T. Lizama ordered Pangelinan to spend 10 months in jail after revoking Pangelinan's probation in his criminal conviction for violating numerous terms and conditions of his probation.

Last month, the Guam-based Tydingco-Gatewood dismissed Pangelinan's $61.1 million lawsuit against judges Alex R. Munson and David A. Wiseman.

In that order, Tydingco-Gatewood ruled that the lawsuit "is repetitive, meritless, vexatious, abusive, and burdensome."

The judge also sanctioned Pangelinan to pay attorneys' fees and court costs to all non-federal defendants he included in his litigation.

In a separate order, the judge gave Pangelinan until May 22, 2008 to explain why he should not be declared a vexatious litigant.

Tydingco-Gatewood described the plaintiff as one of the Commonwealth's most active pro se litigant.

The judge noted that court records show that Pangelinan filed 18 appeals related to matters having their genesis in the court's judgment in a 1997 case in which he was found liable to pay $270,000.

In January 2008, Pangelinan filed the $61.1 million lawsuit against judges Munson and Wiseman. He also named as co-defendants in his lawsuit two lawyers, a federal prosecutor, an FBI agent, two federal probation officers, two U.S. Marshals, and seven other people.

In the lawsuit he filed pro se (without a lawyer), Pangelinan also sued 13 grand jurors and 12 jurors.

In her order issued Tuesday relating to the vexatious litigant issue, Tydingco-Gatewood noted that Pangelinan's history of pro se litigation "has been vexatious, intended to harass, and duplicative."

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Opinion

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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A recipe for weakness

Thanks to the nation's dysfunctional immigration system and the dysfunctional Congress that keeps it that way, tens of thousands of promising, intelligent, ambitious and highly skilled foreign professionals, including thousands receiving advanced degrees from American universities this month, will be denied a chance to contribute their expertise and energy to the American economy. Few policies match this one in terms of sheer irrationality, and few will do as much damage to this country's long-term prospects and competitiveness. Yet Congress, mired in a political swamp of its own making when it comes to immigration, seems incapable of extracting itself.

Although the United States welcomes unlimited numbers of foreign students and subsidizes their education in engineering, physics, computer science, medicine and other disciplines, those students face increasingly steep obstacles to employment here. So do educated foreign workers whose skills are needed in the American workforce.

This year, some 163,000 applicants from both categories vied for 85,000 H-1B work visas—65,000 for foreign workers with bachelor's degrees and another 20,000 for foreign alumni of U.S. graduate schools. In April, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services was so swamped it stopped accepting applicants after just five days; recipients were selected at random by computer lottery. The number of applications was a third higher than last year and shows no sign of abating.

All of that might seem fine and fair were it not for the fact that American-born scientists and Ph.D.s are in short supply and that technology companies, among others, are clamoring to hire qualified foreigners, particularly those trained at U.S. universities. And it's not just worker bees who are drawn from the pool of foreign talent; so are the entrepreneurs who create jobs and fuel the economy. During the 10 years that ended in 2005, foreign-born strivers started a quarter of the new engineering and technology firms in this country. A similar proportion of international patent applications filed in the United States in 2006 originated with immigrants. To the anti-immigration crowd that accuses corporate America of favoring profits over patriotism, those facts should be troubling.

The truth is, America will be a feebler place without a continuing and adequate flow of foreign-born brainpower. America's loss of foreign-born experts translates directly into gains for China, India and other rapidly developing competitors. While the presidential candidates are stepping gingerly around the immigration debate, the ongoing brain drain of the best and brightest foreigners should give them, and the nation, pause.

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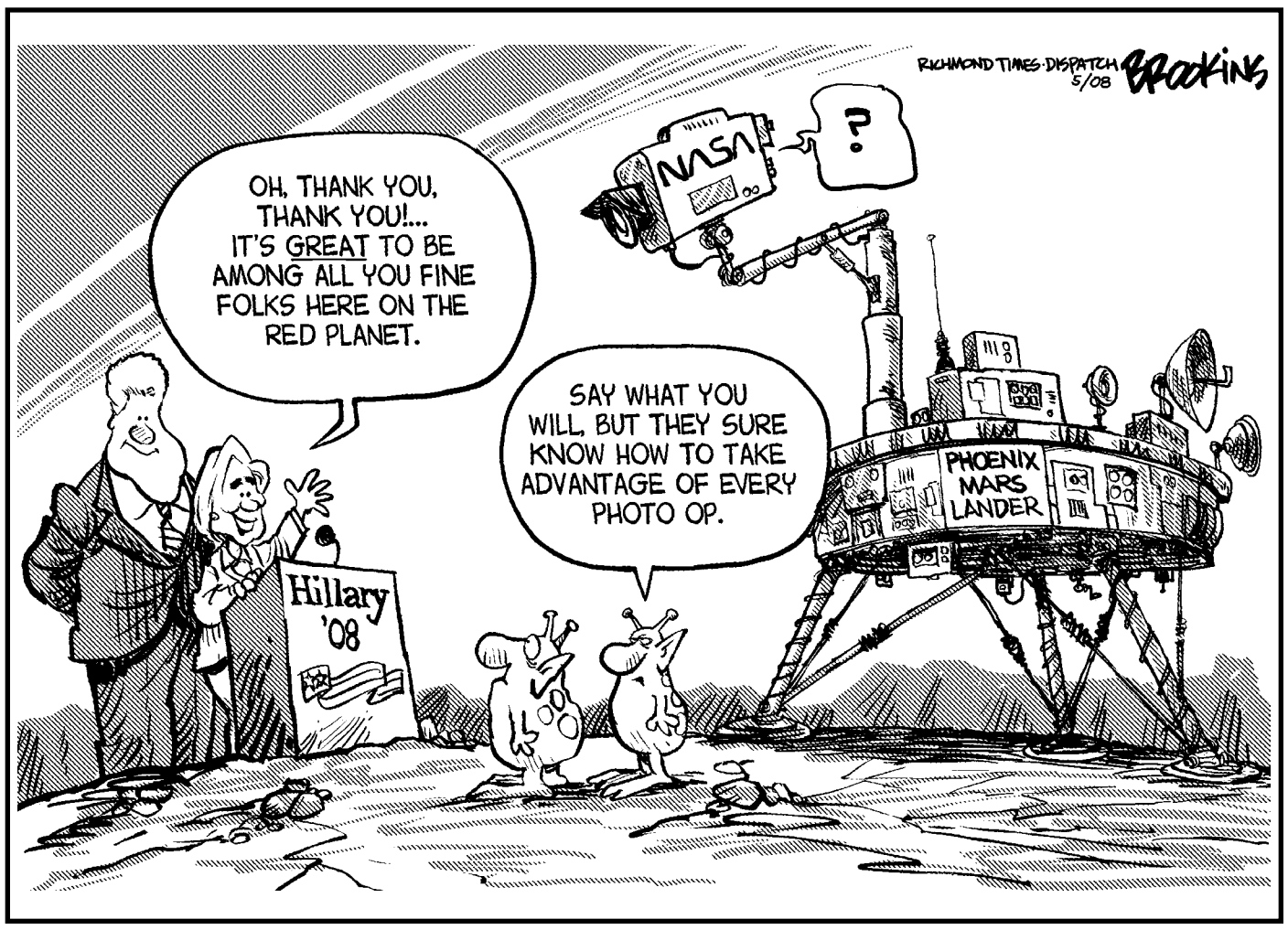
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SPC statement at World Food Summit

Editor's Note: *The following is the statement issued by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community on behalf of Pacific island countries and territories at the UN-sponsored World Food Summit 2008 in Rome.*

Over the past few decades Pacific Islanders have become increasingly reliant on imported staples such as rice, flour and noodles and are vulnerable to global price increases as a result. This is especially true for atolls where limited land, water and poor soils make it difficult to grow much beyond breadfruit, taro and coconuts. Reliance on imported food has also caused deterioration in the diets of Pacific Islanders and rates of obesity and diabetes are amongst the highest in the world. The current crisis could lead to further deterioration if consumers respond by switching to cheaper, lower quality food items.

Transport costs associated with importing produce represent a significant proportion of input costs in the Pacific given the distance of most Pacific Islands from major markets. Increasing fuel prices are therefore exacerbating the situation. Recent natural disasters in some countries, for example cyclone Gene in Fiji and landslides and flooding in Papua New Guinea have also affected domestic production.

However, the current crisis also presents the Pacific with an opportunity. Many Pacific Islands are blessed with a rich diversity of traditional staples such as taro, cassava, sweet potatoes, breadfruit and yams which are not as important in global trade as some of the imported commodities on which we've come to rely. Increased production of these local foods could help to limit the impact of rising prices.

> For generations we relied on our land to provide us with sufficient food to meet our needs. Lifestyle changes, a desire for convenience and a world of cheap imports has eroded this to a certain extent.

Our leaders are responding to the current situation by calling on people to grow more local foods. President Manny Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia maintains that 'for too long our children have been fed on rice as staple food because of the convenience of preparation and storage. We have neglected our responsibility and even contributed to their lower health standards by failing to teach them to appreciate the natural food and bounty of our islands'. Fiji has just launched a "Plant Five a Day" campaign in an effort to encourage more people to plant in their gardens.

In the short term significant increases in agricultural production are unlikely and other remedial measures such as reductions in import duties and targeted transfers will be necessary to prevent price increases having detrimental impacts on the diets and wellbeing of Pacific Islanders. Price controls are used extensively in the Pacific and whilst they may help to reduce or delay the impact of rising prices, they may have perverse impacts by damaging retailer incentives and margins and affecting food supply as a result.

As elsewhere in the world the poorest members of society, in particular the urban poor, are likely to be the most adversely affected as they spend a greater proportion of their income on food. In Fiji, for example the poorest 10 percent of the population spend between 50-65% of their income on food whereas the richest 10 percent spend less than 20 percent on food.

Rural households tend to spend a much greater proportion of their income on root crops and are likely to be able to substitute traditional crops more easily in response to higher prices. Farmers may benefit from the general increase in food prices as consumers substitute towards locally grown foods, but this may still not be sufficient to offset the prices increases for food items that farming households purchase. We have not observed significant sustained increases in the prices of traditional staples yet.

Subsistence farmers, who have relied less on markets in the past, due to poor infrastructure or unreliable transport, may also be better equipped to deal with the current situation as they have had to be more self-sufficient out of necessity. The communal landownership structure and strong cultural obligations of giving and sharing in the Pacific also provides an important safety net for the most vulnerable in many communities.

In the longer term Pacific Island Governments and donors need to reverse the declining investment in the agricultural sector and recognise the role it plays in safeguarding food security in the face of volatile global food prices. Farmers will respond to the incentives of higher food prices provided they have the means to do so. This will require strategies to address the well recognised constraints to expanding agricultural production including strengthening extension services, increasing access to planting material, improving rural infrastructure such as roads and post harvest storage facilities, improving information services and addressing constraints in accessing land. National and international support for research and development in the agriculture and forestry sectors in the Pacific has been inadequate over a number of decades and this needs to be reversed if countries are to capitalise on the opportunities represented by high global food prices.

Pacific Islands are also at the forefront in facing the impacts of climate change. Significant proportions of the population in Pacific Island Countries and Territories live in coastal areas. Increased coastal erosion, contamination of groundwater from saltwater intru-

See SPC on next page

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Little worries now, big worries later

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs on Fridays. Visit Ed at Saipan-Blog.com and TropicalEd.com.

There's no way to sugar coat this one: The Commonwealth has not yet felt the full brunt of high gas prices. So, speaking of gas, I want to gas-on about some economic stuff here, namely, the difference between the short-run and the long-run.

When it comes to gas prices, right now you're pretty much seeing just the short-run gig: It's merely the sting your wallet feels when you gas up the island-beater or take your regular CUC beating. As a result of the higher prices, you buy less gas and you cut back on the aircon use at home. Your demand for gas and electricity has not decreased, but your consumption ("quantity demanded" as economists say) of them has decreased.

That's the short-run. The market hasn't really changed structurally; its feet are still in the same place, but the price vs. quantity gig is shaking its bootie around. If prices snapped back to their old levels, your consumption would, likewise, snap back to its old level, too.

The long-run isn't so simple.

The long-run is what we encounter after stuff works its way through markets, which, in economic terminology, is when the supply functions (think businesses), or demand functions (think consumers), actually change. In other words, the market doesn't just wiggle its bootie, but it actually starts dancing one way or the other down the stage.

In this case, high fuel prices mean, for example, that some businesses will close. Now consider the unhappy outcome if you're one of the employees who loses their jobs. Among other displacements in your life, your demand for gas and electricity will fall because now you're making less money. This is called the "income effect." It's a fancy term for what we know intuitively: When you ain't got no money, you ain't going to buy much stuff.

Following the scenario further, there you are, sitting at the beach, unemployed. You're sifting through the letters from collection agents, when your cousin calls you on the cell phone and tells you that an asteroid just hit OPEC headquarters, and gas prices have just plunged to their old, happy level, say $2.00 a gallon. Yippee! You'd just love to gas up your F150 pickup truck and take your pals to Marpi, but you sold your truck for rent money last week and bought a scooter instead.

Result: Even at $2 a gallon (thank goodness for that asteroid!), you won't be buying the same amount of gas that you used to buy at $2 a gallon before the price spike hit.

That's a profound matter (for economists, at least). Your demand has, indeed, changed, since you're buying a different quantity of gas (now vs. before) when the price point in the same ($2 in this example). But this change, I'll note, was not a function of the spike in gas prices. It was an indirect result, yes; but that's different than a function, a point I have to make because if I don't my economist pals will torment me, then I'll have to get violent, and, well, these things get ugly.

Anyway, this (I hope) illustrates the long-run. Things change, and they don't just snap back to "normal" when (or if) the triggering event (a gas price spike, in this example) returns to its initial level. Sure, one unemployed guy on the beach won't matter much in the overall economy, so feel free to extrapolate that to a bunch of unemployed guys sitting on a bunch of beaches after a bunch of businesses close down.

OK, we've flogged that example for as much as any of us can stand, so there it is.

Why do I lay this rap on you? Because the pain you feel at the pump is mere trivia compared to what might be brewing in the bigger, long-run scheme of things. And, yeah, we hear a lot about fuel woes and airlines these days, with layoffs, closures, bankruptcies, or whatever, and the ominous signs for tourism and travel are obvious, but I fear that's still just the tip of the iceberg.

Modern economies are so fiendishly intertwined with financial complexity, toxic debt, massive distortions, and outright fraud that that I, for one, think that risk has not been fully accounted for. High fuel prices might trigger a lot of profound economic changes, and maybe we'll all be sitting on the beach, unemployed, in the foreseeable future.

As painful as the short-run is, the long-run is getting even more worrisome. I don't know if I should buy a scooter now, or a donkey later.

Unleashing potential

BETTER LIVING

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eye Institute and the author of the book World Peace, a Blind Wife, and Gecko Tails. Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through www.MarianasEye.com, or leave comments at www.MarianasEye.blogspot.com. *Copyright © 2008 David Khorram*

One of the most progressive aid organizations is Ashoka International, founded by Bill Drayton. It's been around 25 years or so, and it's certainly a contender for a Nobel Peace Prize. Bill figured that the best and fastest way to change the world was to identify people in countries who are getting started in socially innovative projects, and support them so that they could dedicate themselves to their cause. There is a worldwide "search" committee that consists of thousands of people in local communities who keep their eyes out for these sorts of people—the single-minded, almost fanatical idealist who has a vision of something great. Every year, the foundation selects "Ashoka Fellows" who are given financial support so that they can pursue their dream, until the dream can get funding from other sources or become self-supporting. The financial support usually lasts about three years. As Bill says, "We're investing in the person, not the project." Over the years, Ashoka has supported 2,000 fellows.

I like the premise—find people who are change-makers, who know their communities and the problems, who are creative in coming up with solutions, and support them so they can make change happen. It's a beautiful concept.

Ultimately, however, I think that more attention needs to be given to the average person, who doesn't see himself or herself as an agent of social change. I think that the world (and by extension, our little island) will change for the better when every common citizen starts to recognize and unlock their own potential. The problems of the world are complex, and solutions don't generally work when imposed from outside. We need the collective talents—the hidden and undiscovered talents—of every member of the community in order to address our problems.

My visit to Hopwood junior high, which I wrote about several weeks ago, still haunts me—all that potential, veiled even from the eyes of those who possess it. I wonder what are the keys to unlocking that potential. Certainly education is a key. But an element that needs investigating is unlocking qualities such as belief in oneself, acceptance of responsibility to improve our communities, improvement of decision-making when voting, and ethical behavior. It will take a combination of all of us gaining new attitudes, new insights, new skills, and combining practical with spiritually based approaches.

Letter to the Editor

Interesting regulatory exemptions likely to be adopted for the proposed Pew monument

From the beginning of Pew's campaign to convert over 115,000 square miles of our exclusive economic zone into a national monument (or marine preserve), our local Pew lobbyist has suggested that we use the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Monument as a model for their monument proposal. As some one who wanted to fully understand the repercussions of having a national marine monument designated in our EEZ, I followed Pew's advice. The more I read, the more concerned I became.

Should the proposed Pew monument be designated, we all know that it comes with highly restrictive prohibitions against any and all commercial and recreational extractive uses, among many others. These prohibitions are fundamental in the designation of national monuments as per the Antiquities Act of 1906. Further regulatory restrictions would be placed on visitors and activities by the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NOAA/NOS) in order to meet their mandated goals and objectives. This is all done with the stated purpose of protecting the natural resources of the monument.

With that being said, I find it ironic that the U.S. military was *exempted* from compliance with the NWHI Monument rules and regulations. Even more interesting, if not puzzling, is that non-U.S. citizens who are acting under international law are also exempt from the NWHI Monument regulations. As these two exemptions relate to national security and/or international law, I am assuming that they would be non-negotiable and be included in the presidential proclamation designating the Pew Monument, should it be pursued.

The exemption given the U.S. military in complying with NWHI Monument regulations is concisely spelled out in Presidential Proclamation 8031: "*The prohibitions required by this proclamation shall not apply to activities and exercises of the Armed Forces (including those carried out by the United States Coast Guard) that are consistent with applicable laws."* The U.S. military exemption is also repeated in Section 404.9 in the NWHI Monument regulations (FR Vol. 71, No. 167; page 51138).

It is very hard to say what problems, if any, will appear with the military being granted carte blanche use of the proposed Pew Monument *waters*. However, with the ongoing significant military buildup in the Marianas, it is extremely likely that the military will have good reason to utilize monument waters for training and other purposes. This issue is usually downplayed during Pew presentations—if discussed at all.

Interestingly, a recent article *(March 19-25, 2008)* in the *Honolulu Weekly,* titled *National Monument, watery grave?,* described the public outcry from Hawaiian environmental groups when they learned the military was planning to use NWHI Monument waters for training exercises. They apparently didn't pay attention to the regulatory details in the rush to get the NWHI Marine Sanctuary designated as a national monument.

The second exemption by far is the most perplexing to me. There is a legal exemption at '404.12 (page 51140) in the NWHI Monument regulations that state: "*These regulations shall be applied in accordance with international law. No restrictions shall apply to or be enforced against a person who is not a citizen, national, or resident alien of the United States (including foreign flag vessels) unless in accordance with international law."*

I certainly understand that international law takes precedence over monument regulations. However, looking at the worst possible scenario, is it possible that the U.S. State Department could authorize distant water fishing fleets from China, Japan, or Taiwan to fish monument waters under an international fisheries treaty? I don't know the answer as I am not an attorney. Comments from knowledgeable persons are certainly welcome.

From a layman's perspective, it appears that the only ones that must comply with all the numerous prohibitions and regulations established for a national monument are us U.S. citizens.

John Gourley
Navy Hill, Saipan

SPC

From Page 10

sion and storm surges will undermine food production especially in atoll countries such as Tuvalu and Kiribati. Ocean warming and coral bleaching will also reduce the productivity of coastal fisheries on which many island communities rely as a source of food and income.

Demographic pressures will also increase demand for food with populations expected to grow from 9.5 million to around 14 million in the next 20 years.

Adapting to these changes by identifying crops and varieties suitable for new environmental conditions and developing strategies to deal with new pests and diseases also necessitates significant investment in the agricultural sector.

For generations we relied on our land to provide us with sufficient food to meet our needs. Lifestyle changes, a desire for convenience and a world of cheap imports has eroded this to a certain extent. The current rise in food prices does not come without its costs but it also provides Pacific Island Countries and Territories with the opportunity to recognize the importance of our own domestic agricultural sectors and give them the priority they deserve. In doing so we will better equip our countries with the ability to handle current and future external shocks, whilst at the same time contribute to improving the health of our people.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲84° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°

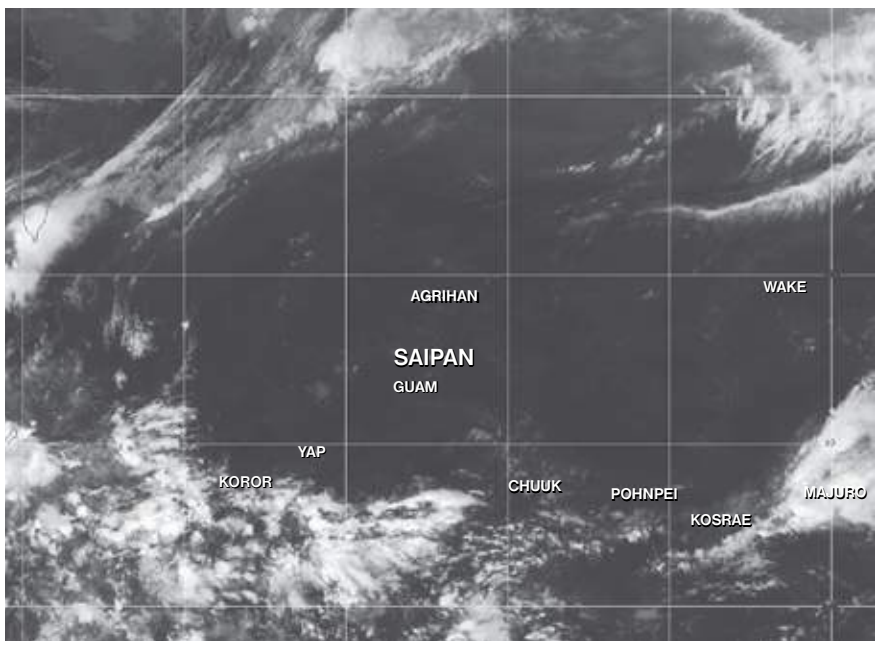
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲58	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲86	▼63
Hong Kong	Rain	▲83	▼77
Honolulu	Rain	▲82	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80	▼61
Manila	Showers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼72
Osaka	Cloudy	▲76	▼61
Paris	Rain	▲68	▼53
Pusan	Cloudy	▲79	▼62
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼58
Salem	Showers	▲58	▼45
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼50
Seoul	Cloudy	▲77	▼58
Tokyo	Showers	▲71	▼65
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts through the northwest corner of the discussion area from 25N131E to beyond 23N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and up to 50 miles northwest of the front. Scattered trade-wind showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near Koror between the equator and 8N from 130E to 150E. A surface trough extends northeastward from 5N168E to 10N170E. This trough is embedded in the trade-wind flow causing numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms between 4N and 12N from 166E to 176E. This area includes the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Scattered showers are found between 1N and 5N from 176E to 180. This area is east of Butaritari.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:33AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:08AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:49PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
11:11PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Monday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Tuesday	5:46AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:58AM	9:26PM
Saturday	9:03AM	10:18PM
Sunday	10:04AM	11:03PM
Monday	10:59AM	11:43PM
Tuesday	11:52AM	

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letter to the Editor

The betel nut war in schools

The power is out and I thought about the never-ending war most junior high and high schools have with betel nut, so you owe this one to CUC. I can remember in the early 90s when PSS' assessment coordinator Domonic Buckley (may she rest in peace and God bless her soul) tried to get the Board not to adopt a policy banning betel nut. She was unsuccessful of course but more interesting is that her predictions did come true. She predicted there would be a never-ending battle to keep betel nut off campuses and a never-ending battle to keep the schools clean, not to mention the counterproductive disciplinary approach to controlling the use of betel nut on school campuses.

Here we are over a decade later and the level of betel nut chewing hasn't changed that much at all from what I can tell. I'm sure some schools may claim to be the exception but in general the war still looms. Many of the businesses, offices and other public places have signs now, unlike a decade ago. We have even had a few serious battles at the school system with the seats on buses being used for spittoons. We are still disciplining and even suspending students for chewing on campus and sometimes to the point they miss an entire year of school from so many suspensions. We are still repainting and water blasting betel nut a decade later. I feel sorry for PSS and these students who are being punished, especially when their parents were not punished for doing the same thing. I'm sure people can see what we are doing isn't working.

Betel nut is deeply rooted in the way of life for the indigenous people. If we took a vote, I'm sure the overwhelming majority of people would not want betel nut chewing banned in the CNMI. So if we are going to live with betel nut, why not learn how to meet everyone's expectations. We do that through education—an education that should be taught at home but some students are not that fortunate and we must face the truth. Many students are not taught the "etiquette of chewing." Many students are not practicing the proper behavior nor is it being reinforced at home. The school system has chosen only to punish students for chewing rather than educate them.

As Mrs. Buckley submitted in her explanation as to why we shouldn't ban betel nut, the list of drug items on the federal list of banned drugs does not include betel nut, meaning it is not unlawful for students to chew anywhere so why create a war we don't have to fight? The PSS leadership at the time wanted to impose the ban in hopes that it would decrease the use of betel nut on school campuses but it didn't work. We all know from the real drug war that laws and policies are not the absolute answer, as education is the primary tool for transforming an entire society. We need to bring an end to the war on betel nut or we will be fighting it for decades to come on buses and at schools. It is better and cheaper to educate our students to be considerate, responsible and accountable for their chewing as opposed to sending them home to sit and do nothing and even fail their classes because of betel nut.

The Board can easily end the war on betel nut and help students, teachers and principals by allowing betel nut to be chewed in "free zones" inside campuses. Instead of punishing, we can institute expectations and begin to educate students through teaching moments and reinforcing the etiquette of chewing. Give students "ownership" in their campus and even require them to keep their Free Zones clean or they will be temporary closed until they are cleaned up. The Free Zone will certainly mean a great deal to students who want their own "spot" if you understand the culture of junior high and high schools and they will do what is proper and necessary to keep these zones clean—it's the oldest parenting tool in the book. PSS needs to start thinking for PSS and stop depending so much on parents to do a job we are paid to do, which is their expectation these days. Maybe the present Board will look at this lesson from the past and consider creating a policy that is more symbiotic in the cultural relationship between betel nut chewing and our education, especially when the Board is looking for a COE to take risk because what's good for the COE is also good for the BOE.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

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This compact SUV gets great fuel economy with it's DOHC I-VETC 4 cylinder engine. Ultra-Low-Emission Vehicle (ULEV) designation. Standard front and side curtain airbag make it a great choice for a family vehicle.
EST. MPG 24
The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has named the Accord Sedan a 2008 "Top Safety Pick."
The Accord has won the Car and Driver 10Best Cars award again for 2008—a record 22 times!
Built for the road with more style, more luxury and more sophistication than ever. It's 2.4 liter I-VTEC 4 cylinder engine offers great fuel economy. Other features including a 6-disc CD changer, alloy wheels complete the package.

2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	$15,990.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	$15,990.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	$26,990.00

KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Rio~~	~~#7629237~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$12,995.00~~
Sportage	#77354358	Jade	$17,695.00
Sorento	#65602982	Green	$18,995.00

FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Ranger~~	~~#7PA3111~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,990.00~~
Fusion	#7R114053	White	$19,990.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	$19,990.00
F-150	#6NB05745	White	$21,990.00

HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Fit	#7S031086	Silver	$14,995.00
Fit Sport	#7S031103	White	$16,495.00
Civic DX	#7L061948	White	$16,995.00
~~Ridgeline~~	~~#6H56662~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$29,990.00~~

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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of: P.K.L.I.N., Minor Child	)	FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0297
By: Wilber O. and Lourdes I. Ngotel Petitioners.	)	NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 10, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 4th day of June, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Letters to the Editor

Nice try

Time to analyze this Kenneth O'Harnett's verbose "fagaga" stench and his idealization of American history and policy.

Myth-breaking facts about America and Saipan:

1. U.S. liberation was at the point of a gun in 1944, and despite your propaganda, many indigenous people were killed by American soldiers who often wantonly "killed all the yellows and browns."

2. Liberation Day from the concentration camps of Susupe was on July 4, 1946, nearly a year after the war was over.

3. The United States severely restricted the movement and political control of indigenous people for nearly 20 years under military and secret police control (CIA) from 1944-1962. It had all the hallmarks of a communist state under the guise of "U.S. democracy." Ironically, that changed when the Soviets in the U.N. Security Council were wondering what the heck was going on down here. So Micronesians political rights changed, but our third-class minimum wages did not, and not our minimal access to education.

4. Let's not forget how the Marshallese were used as atomic bomb guinea pigs by Uncle Sam. Yes, Micronesians used as lab animals for "respect and dignity."

5. "White is right" was (is?) a racist, bigoted, and genocidal system that has been perpetuated in America for the last 400-plus years. It needs to stop!

6. Prostitution is legal in Nevada, and prevalent everywhere in the world.

7. Child prostitution, sweatshops, and alien sexploitation are rife across the U.S. so you and your friends should clean up your own yard before saying ours is a mess.

8. And before you go off on heroic Marines "saving us," remember that Guy Gabaldon never received a Medal of Honor for capturing and saving hundreds of enemy and locals, because he was a brown to be kept down.

9. Oh and let's not forget how during World War II, the Japanese-American 442nd were decimated to rescue their white brothers of the Texas 35th, when they got encircled in Italy. Meanwhile, Japanese-Americans were put behind barbed wire, and even machine-gunned for getting too close to the concentration camps' fence. Did you ever give a thought to the sacrifice of the U.S. Army's 442nd Regiment as you drove down Middle Road? Do you teach this history in your class?

10. Filipinos for federalization, think logically: You had your own Liberation Day celebration on July 4, 1946. Do you know that the United States invaded, occupied, and killed 500,000 Filipinos over their decades of rule on your soil from 1898-1946? And then controlled bases there for four more decades until 1992. Ninety years of being on your knees has made you pliant to the wishes of the "slave master." Get off your knees and build the Philippines up!

11. Finally, expanding on citizenship, how is it that you Texans don't want millions of Texano descendants living in Mexico to return to their homeland in Texas? Could it be your "futile outdated territorial defensiveness and xenophobia," Mr. O'Harnett? Lucky for you there is a 2,000 mile Berlin Wall to keep them out of your WASP "homeland." Good thing that America is so welcoming to 12 to 30 million undocumented immigrants itself. No hypocrisy there, Mr. O'Harnett? Viva federalization! Viva la green card and blue passport for these indentured and exploited workers.

Nothing wrong with quoting Dylan, Mr. O'Harnett, but I think a quote from a different Bob fits America's history. But sadly as Nazi propaganda minister Goebel's said, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."

So here we go again with hundreds of local people "defending and liberating" people in faraway places. Students and those thinking about the Army, try to remember the experience of Japanese-American soldiers in the 442nd and Black Buffalo soldiers before enlisting and…

Troddin through San Juan in the arms of America;

Troddin through…[Iraq], a buffalo soldier

So nice try. The times are changing, and we are exposing the lies of what our high school teachers call "history." As an American who loves his country, I have a duty to point out your inaccuracies and lies about American history you are perpetuating in our public schools.

Paul Castro
Kagman, Saipan

United we stand, divided we act: Part 3

After four long years of struggle, long-term foreign workers are now on their way to achieving their dream. S. 2739 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 is now Public Law 110-229, extending federal immigration to the islands. The CNMI House Bill 16-86, which proposes to allow eligible foreign workers to live and work at will in the Commonwealth is now scheduled for public hearing on June 12, 2008.

It is true that a sizeable number of foreign workers can only qualify for H-visas or temporary work permit under federal law, but let us not stop there. The fight is not yet over. CNMI House Bill 16-86 or "The Resident Foreign National Status Act of 2008" is knocking on our door. Let us open wide our door and see the bountiful message it brings for us. Under the proposed bill, a foreign worker may apply for a resident foreign national entry permit if he or she has lived legally in the CNMI for at least five years and has met character requirements. The bill does not offer permanent residency, resident status, citizenship, or nationality to a resident foreign national. However, the bill will allow long-time foreign workers to stay for five-year periods in the CNMI. Long before May 9, 2008, we were fighting for federalization; now that we are waiting for the transitional period of effective date we are still fighting for how to qualify for an H-visa. Are we among the sizeable number of foreign workers that will qualify for H-visa? Maybe yes, maybe no? Therefore, the answer is H.B 16-86.

Did you examine yourself if you are qualified for H-visa? Did you read the full text of the federalization bill before you joined the shouting on the street for approval of the federalization bill? If yes, then why are you crying when you learned that you are not qualified for an H-visa because you don't have the required educational background, length of experience and legal status? Let us not claim victory in the fight that is beyond our control. We are not the one holding the gavel that we can strike any moment when the arguments are over nor are we the one holding the pen that, in one stroke, will change the life of foreign nationals in the CNMI. Let us not claim victory if victors are suffering from fear of being deported due to the unavailability of employers during the transition period. That is why, fellow foreign workers, Ms. Tina Sablan's bill, H.B. 16-86 (supported by four other lawmakers) is the right tool for the recommendations of the CNMI Governor after two years' enactment on PL 110-229.

We must now focus and concentrate on how the federal government will draft the rules and implementing guidelines in favor of long time foreign workers. The CNMI government will play a vital role in the formulation of regulations under the guest workers program. It is important that we have to secure our status on the islands prior to the transition period.

Carlito J. Marquez
Puerto Rico, Saipan

GOP ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NMI Republican Party Board of Directors announces that the deadline for the submission of the letter of intent for the nomination for the Washington Delegate is Wednesday, June 11, 2008, 4:00 pm. The letter of intent and the candidate fee must be presented either to Mr. Ed Tenorio, Board President, or Ms. Charlene Tudela, Board 1st Vice President. Their contact numbers are 285-3305 or 483-2427, respectively.

The GOP general membership meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at 6:00 pm, at the Garapan Central Park. Proposed amendments to its bylaws will be presented for action. Prospective nominees for the Washington Delegate will also be introduced. All members of the CNMI Republican Party are encouraged to attend.

For more information on the announcements, you may contact Ms. Bennet Seman, GOP Executive Director, at 323-0126.

Wells Fargo Financial Wants To Help You Celebrate Saipan Liberation Day!

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL

Stop by Wells Fargo Financial on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero to begin your Celebration! We are proud to be offering specially designed 100% cotton American and Saipan Flag T-shirts in honor of our July 4th Liberation Day (yours with an approved loan in the amount of $1,000.00 or more!)

Or, call ahead at 235-6030 and upon loan approval, we will have your loan check and Liberation Day T-shirt available (after signing loan papers.)

Why wait? Act now! The Saipan Liberation Day T-shirts are available while supplies last.
Call or stop by Wells Fargo Financial today!

Liberation Day 2008

Granting of loan is subject to our credit requirements. If you have an existing account with us, your new loan may be made by refinancing your existing account instead of as a separate loan.

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Bargain In Every Aisle!

Sale starts on June 6 to 11, 2008

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Polo Shirt by Bay Reef
$7.59

MENS FASHION

Corona Long Sleeve Tees
$8.59

LADIES FASHION

Elastic Slacks By Bultina
$16.59

LADIES FASHION

Stripe Shorts By Feathers
$10.59

BOYS FASHION

Cargo Pants By Abingdon
$9.59

BOYS FASHION

Stripe Polo SHirt by Ranchero
$9.59

GIRLS FASHION

Bathing Suit Assorted
$10.59

GIRLS FASHION

Girls Nylon Brief
$2.59

FOR INFANTS

3 pc. Crib Sheet Set
$10.59

FOR INFANTS

Recieving Blanket 2 pack
$4.59

Best Buys!

Alberto VO5 Shampoo or Conditioner 15oz.
$1.59

Best Buys!

Best Buys!

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$1.79

Best Buys!

Toothbrush 5+5 pcs.
75¢

Best Buys!

Nice & Easy Hair Color
$8.79

Best Buys!

WF Cosmetics Puffs 300's
$1.09

Best Buys!

Fruitience Shampoo or Conditioner 350ml.
$4.39

Aero 2 quart Plastic Pitcher
$1.49

Presto Power Pop Popcorn Popper
$19.99

Proctor Silex 12 Cup Coffemaker
$25.99

Proctor Silex 5 Speed Handmixer
$12.49

HAMILTON BEACH
20 Cup Rice Cooker
$35.99

Corelle Salad Plate/ Soup Cereal Bowl
$5.99

Scouring Pads 20 /pk
$1.39

Brisco Fleece Throw Blanket
$6.99

Wall Clock
$11.99

Lakewood 20' Box Fan
$24.99

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Gala Apples **$1.59** lb.

Green Cabbage **69¢** lb.

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Brown Potatoes **69¢** lb.

Oranges **95¢** lb.

Fuji Apples **$1.45** lb.

Sleeved Cellery **$1.15** lb.

US Avocados **$1.29** pc.

Loose Carrots **89¢** lb.

Extra Large Eggs **$2.99** dz.

Visit us for more savings at our Produce section!

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Accepts Phone Orders

Lunch is available Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please call 234-6445 for daily specials!

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WF Assorted Bagged Cereal 32oz. Limit 3
$4.99

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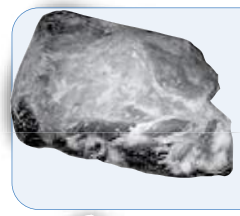
$1.99



New Zealand Boneless Beef Clod
$1.99 /lb.

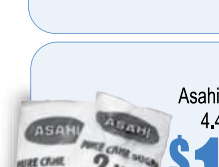
New Zealand Beef For Stew Family Bag 7lb.
$14.99

Whole Chicken Fryers 30 lbs./case
$39.99 /cs.

Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case
$17.99 /cs.

US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case
$16.99 /cs.

U.S. Beef Short Ribs
$2.59 /lb.

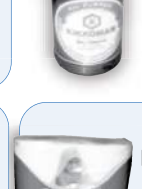


Asahi Sugar 4.4 lb.
$1.79 /ea.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.8 liter
$3.99 /ea.

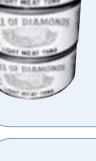
Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml.
$6.50 /cs.

ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz.
99¢ /ea.

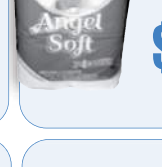


Soft N Gentle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll
$1.99 /ea.

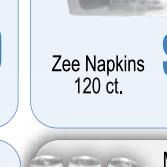
Zee Napkins 120 ct.
$1.99 /ea.



So Dri Paper Towel 1 Roll
$1.59 /ea.



Bud Family Beer Can
$24.98 /cs.
$12.49 12pk.



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SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

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Auto, Beige, Stock: U07-007T
License: ACB-455
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Price: ~~$15,699~~
REDUCED PRICE
$14,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR.	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	$14,999	
GM CARS								
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	~~$9,599~~	$7,599
R08-005F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	$6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~$9,599~~	$7,599
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	~~$9,599~~	$7,599
U08-032R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	27339	WHITE	ACD-506	$8,699	
U08-033R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	21118	BEIGE	ACD-486	$8,699	
U08-034R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	22055	BEIGE	ACD-147	$8,699	
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~$10,999~~	$9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~$29,999~~	$28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
U08-024R	2006	TACOMA 4X4 A/CAB	MANUAL	46950	RED	CWMAN001	$16,099	
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	~~$15,999~~	$13,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~$11,899~~	$10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	~~$12,499~~	$11,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	~~$11,599~~	$10,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	~~$8,999~~	$7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~$8,999~~	$7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~$10,999~~	$8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~$16,799~~	$15,299
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~$7,999~~	$7,099
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	$10,899	
VANS								
U08-031T	2006	DODGE CARAVAN HYDRAULIC LIFT	AUTO	3671	GOLD	ACF-128	$19,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	~~$14,599~~	$12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~$13,699~~	$12,799
U07-082T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		~~$14,599~~	$12,599
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR. 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~$19,185~~	$19,099

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1/2" $6.67 7/8" $20.41
5/8" $10.42 1" $27.03

Galvalume roof tin (Gauge 26)
from Korea, better quality, long time no rusty

Plyform (5/8"):
Red/Black-$25.90 • Phenolic Black-$29.90

Thin-Set Mortar:
$9.00 Custom (c.cure), gray, from U.S.
55lbs/bag, Regular Price $9.80

OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBERS
35% OFF
U.S. UTILITY LUMBERS
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20% OFF

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4"-$0.50/pc • 6"-$0.60/pc • 8"-$0.70/pc

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CEMENT, US STANDARD
$5.85
Grout, 25 Lbs.
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HENRY ADHESIVE 356 MULTI-PURPOSE
$15.00/Gal
HENRY ADHESIVE 356 MULTI-PURPOSE
$53.00/4Gals
HENRY ADHESIVE 430 VYNIL TILE
$14.00/Gal
HENRY ADHESIVE 314 CERAMIC TILE
$48.00/4Gals

Special price for damaged items, from
15% to 50% off

Plywood 25% off
Mahogany lumber 35% off
Metal stud/track $4/pc
Door(louver/screen) 35% off
White plywood $6.00/pc
Tie wire G20/G22 $0.4/lb
10' pvc white pipe 4" $12/pc
Ceiling tile 2'*4' $3.00/pc
Rope $2/pc
US lumber 15% off
Roof tin 15% off
Shower room 35% off
Window 35% off
Cement board $4/pc
Downspout $8/pc
Square bar $4/pc
Formica $5/pc
Ceramic tile $0.3/pc

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

'Best of the Worst Dog Show'

Don't forget PAWS and Beautify CNMI! will be hosting a dog show, "The Best of the Worst Dog Show," this Saturday, June 7, from 4pm to 6pm at the CPA Airport Field, underneath the Flame Trees at the southern end of the field. Participants are encouraged to sign up early by downloading an application on-line at www.paws-saipan.org and submitting to Katie Busenkell at busenkell@gmail.com no later than Friday evening. People can also sign up at the show between 2:30pm and 3:30pm. There will be absolutely no entries accepted after 3:30pm on June 7. The show will start promptly at 4pm.

Untrained, ill-behaved, and ugly or silly-looking dogs are welcome and encouraged to participate in the event, though all dogs must be fitted with a leash and collar, and no dogs showing signs of mange will be permitted to participate in the event.

If people have questions about the show, contact Busenkell on the PAWS PTI Hotline at 285-PAWS. ***(PAWS)***

Library Friends meeting set

The Library Friends of the JoeTen Kiyu Public Library will be meeting on Tuesday, June 10. The meeting will be at 5pm in the central library. The main topic for discussion will be the bookmobile—getting it on the road and keeping it going.

"Please join us in ensuring that we will be able to provide the service of the bookmobile to our community," said Library Friends president Maureen Sebangiol .

If more information is needed, you may contact the library at 235-7332 or Sebangiol at 287-0782. ***(PR)***

NMC English placement test

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English placement test next Wednesday, June 11. The test will be conducted in Room A-5 and will run from 2pm to 5pm. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a $25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733. ***(PR)***

Benito Clan reunion meeting

This is to inform the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano—the "Benito Clan"—that the next meeting for the "Benito Clan" will be on Wednesday, June 18, 2008, at the residence of John and Michelle Tagabuel in Pasgua Court, Dandan, at 6pm.

Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting. For more information you may contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-6358 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. ***(PR)***

New Call-A-Ride bus chedule

The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities is informing all Call-A-Ride customers of the new Call-A-Ride bus schedule:

- Monday to Saturday: 6am to 9pm
- Sunday: Off

The bus fee is $2 one way and $4 for round trip

Contact Willdrow Cabrera or Steve Camacho at cell number 483-9013/9078. ***(PR)***

Rota public hearing rescheduled

The time scheduled for the public hearing of the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations scheduled on June 7, 2008 from 8am to 5pm has been rescheduled from 8am to 2pm only.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive testimonies on several pending legislations that include putting the question of calling a Constitutional Convention before the voters of the CNMI, to authorize the election of an Attorney General; amending the Constitution to require the adoption of an annual budget, and to create a new immigration category for long-term alien workers.

Interested members of the public may submit written testimony to the Committee on or before June 30, 2008.

Copies of the legislation may be obtained at the Office of Representative Santos or may be downloaded at cnmileg.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Vendors sought for Games, tournament

The 2008 Oceania Games will be held on June 21-28, 2008 at the Oleai Sports Complex and the Asia Pacific Little League Tournament will be held on June 25 through July 6, 2008 at the Francisco Palacios Baseball Field.

In consideration of these upcoming special events, interested vendors who wish to sell food, snacks and drinks (no alcoholic beverages allowed) during these games are requested to submit/fax their proposals to the Sports and Recreation Office at 664-2510 no later than Friday, June 13, 2008 for consideration. Concessionaires are limited to only six vendors. ***(PR)***

Local Chinese association responds to quake disaster

The Chinese Association of Saipan has announced that they have raised checks and cash totaling $50,215.61 for the victims of the May 2008 earthquake in Sichuan, China.

"We appreciate the efforts of the Saipan Chinese community and the rest of the island in the generosity of all persons in responding to this disaster in China," Jerry Tan, Chinese Association of Saipan president, said yesterday.

Local fundraising efforts began immediately upon the news of the 7.9 magnitude earthquake that devastated the south-central Chinese region on May 12, 2008. The community quickly joined together in raising these funds.

On Monday, June 2, the association sent a letter to Ambassador/Consul Hou of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Los Angeles, California expressing their generosity and concern with a total of $50,215.61. The letter went on to say how unfortunate the events in Sichuan are, and how the community of Saipan is continuously monitoring the progress of rescue and relief efforts.

The Chinese Association of Saipan is joined by millions of other Chinese persons living abroad in raising funds to help their fellow countrymen in this time of need.

Official figures state that 69,122 are confirmed dead, including 68,509 in Sichuan province, and 373,606 injured, with 17,991 listed as missing. The earthquake left about 4.8 million people homeless, though the number could be as high as 11 million. It was the deadliest and strongest earthquake to hit China since the 1976 Tangshan earthquake, which killed at least 240,000 people. Approximately 15 million people live in the affected area.

The Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI was founded in 1987 and includes 100 active members. ***(PR)***

FEMA VISIT

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, third from right, poses with visiting Federal Emergency Management Agency led by regional administrator Nancy Ward, third from left, at the Governor's Office on June 4, 2008. Others in the picture are, from left, Terrie Zuiderhouk, Robert Fenton, and Kim Walz, a FEMA Public Affairs Officer. FEMA officials met with Fitial, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, and local Homeland Security Director Patrick Tenorio.

Six Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on six beaches on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from the Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, Dai Ichi Drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, and Sugar Dock contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria—enterococci—that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Wednesday.

This week, the division analyzed samples taken from 38 locations on Saipan's coast. DEQ welcomes all inquires as to the quality of the beach waters. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions.

LAND FOR SALE

1. **Subject Property.** Real property is situated at I-Denni (Capitol Hill), Saipan, and known as Lot. 322-1-1-2 (part of original Lot 322, TD 124), containing an area of 1,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat 2060/92, the original of which was recorded 24 Dec 91, as Document No. 91-6427, at Land Registry, Saipan.
2. **Price.** The property will be sold to the highest bidder.
3. **Condition of Property.** As is.
4. **Warranties and Covenants.** The sale shall be without warranties of any kind, and it is the buyer's responsibility to verify title to the property.
5. **Conduct of Sale.** The sale will be held with reserve, which may or may not be disclosed to the bidders. Furthermore, the undersigned reserves the right to withdraw the property listed for sale at any time before the bid is accepted, or to reject any or all bids for any reason whatsoever. Furthermore, the sale shall be subject to the approval of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
6. **Right of Redemption.** Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4541, the property sold in this sale may be redeemed at any time, within 12 months after the date of sale, and in accordance with 2 CMC § 4542.
7. **Contact Information.** Please submit written offers to the Law Offices of Ramon K. Quichocho, LLC, on the 2nd Floor, Sign Arts Building, San Jose, P.O. Box 505621, Saipan, MP 96950, by no later than June 16, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact the undersigned at 670.234.8946.

/s/ Ramon K. Quichocho

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Cabrera, Benjamin top KHS commencement rites

The Top 10 graduating students of Kagman High School. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Alexis Shawnee Cabrera, 18, and Nadia Rae Benjamin, 17 were named the top graduates during the Kagman High School commencement exercise held last Tuesday at their school campus stage.

Cabrera, who led a class of 81, not only received Commissioner's Award but was also conferred department awards in Fine Arts, Business, Japanese, Social Studies, Science, Math and English. She also obtained a Community Service Award and a Joeten scholarship.

"I'm excited. Hopefully, once I go to college, I will be a valedictorian again," said Cabrera, who will be attending Mount Hood Community College in Oregon. She wants to be a social worker or a counselor here on Saipan in the future.

ALEXIS SHAWNEE CABRERA
Commissioner's Award

NADIA RAE BENJAMIN
Principal's Award

In addition to the Principal's Award, Benjamin also got department awards in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Latin, and Physical Education. In the community awards category, she was given the OFEGRA, or the Women's Affair Award.

"I am excited, honored, glad and sad, too. My graduating class is like my family. And also, I feel bad that some of the graduates could not attend because they are pursuing their military career," said Benjamin.

She will be going to the Northern Marianas College and later on to the Gonzaga University, where she plans to double major in Finance and Accounting and Education.

"I truly and deeply want to be a teacher here on Saipan in the future," she added.

Benjamin is known for her active involvement in school activities. She devoted herself to the National Honor Society as its vice president, STUCO president, member of the graduation committee and many other sports like the canoe team and softball.

The PTSA Recognition Award was given to Elaine Benjamin, while the PTSA Association Award went to Ali Nawaz.

The top seven graduates were Cabrera, Benjamin, Rosemarie Epiti, Margarita Agulto Aldan, Athena Ogumoro, Carson Shiro, Caroline Izawa, first honorable mention Catherine Hiney, and second honorable mention Alexandra Silva.

The graduating class of Kagman High School. JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ

GES promotes 28 to 1st grade

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Garapan Elementary School's Kindergarten held a promotional ceremony for 28 students late Tuesday afternoon, with the theme "Wish upon a star."

Kindergarten Mallard Awards were also handed out during the ceremony to Maria Calista, Donna Galvez, Sheila Sibetang and Jenine Perena.

"All kindergarten students were given Megaskills Medals, which symbolized the character trait that best fit each of them," said Yvonne Gomez, GES principal.

In explaining the toned down commemoration of the event, Gomez said, "The school no longer holds graduation ceremonies for its students, opting to engage in more developmentally appropriate celebrations of accomplishments."

Instead of pre-recorded music, the students sang the *Star-Spangled Banner*, the CNMI's national anthem and the Garapan school song.

"GES Kindergarten students performed a variety of songs and skits that highlighted the things they learned before moving on to the first grade," said Gomez.

Their theme song for the event was *I Am But a Small Voice*, popularized by Broadway star Lea Solonga.

Parents were treated to Science, Language Arts, Physical Education and Character Education samples that brought smiles to everyone's faces.

Derwin Johnson, the 2008 Teacher of the Year, gave an inspirational message.

This year, 28 Kindergarten students will move on to the first grade.

The school acknowledged the parent volunteers for their decorations and for helping organize the event, along with teacher aides and staff.

1st Saipan Chamber of Commerce
GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following companies for their generous support of our First Annual Golf Tournament.

The Chamber raised over $10,000 to support our ongoing educational endeavors.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay and Maraming Salamat.

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Hard Rock Cafe Saipan

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Zoning Board Public Hearing
Establishment of an Adult Business Overlay Zoning District and Amendment of Criteria for Siting of Adult Businesses

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking comments on a proposed regulation to establish an adult business overlay zoning district. The proposed district would cover land within 200 feet of each side of the centerline of Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Rd.) as follows: from Chalan Msgr. Guerrero north to a line extending along the center of Commonwealth Avenue (south side of Sugar King Park). If a lot or building extends beyond 200 feet from the centerline, only the part within 200 feet would be allowed to be used for an adult business.

The Board is also seeking public comment on a proposal to amend the requirements on the Saipan Zoning Law for siting adult businesses in adult business overlay zones. The proposed amendment would require new adult businesses to be located at least 500 feet from an existing adult business. The concept of the 500-foot separation is to avoid creating closely packed "red light" districts that draw crowds and traffic, and reduce property values.

Public open house to explain the proposals:
Date: Friday, June 13, 2007
Time: 2:00 pm and repeat at 6:30 pm
Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

Public Hearing on the proposals:
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2008
Time: 6:30 pm
Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

Adult businesses could be allowed to locate in the adult business overlay zoning district after they submit applications for zoning permits and meet the requirements of Section 513 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. These requirements include: separation from sensitive locations and design of buildings and signs. The Saipan Zoning Law may be viewed and downloaded online at www.zoning.gov.mp or at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan.

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will decide whether to approve the adult business overlay zoning district and whether to recommend that the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation amend the Saipan Zoning Law.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and they must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, June 20, 2008. People should send written comments via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. We prefer email. Anyone with questions about the proposal may call the Zoning Office at 670-234-9663.

Fiji utility is prodded to hurry with green energy

High fuel cost has consumers looking for alternatives

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—Calls have been made for the Fiji Electricity Authority (FEA) to speed up its renewable energy projects sighting global rise in fuel price.

Consumer Council of Fiji made the call amidst fears of a rise in fuel surcharge that might be awarded to the Authority.

Council chief executive officer Premila Kumar said FEA should not rely on consumers to keep paying additional fuel surcharge with every fuel price increase.

Kumar said the Council objects to such an exorbitant increase, particularly when people are struggling to survive and purchase basic food items.

The Council has repeatedly called for FEA to be prudent in their expenses so that there will be no need to burden consumers with added fuel surcharge at such a financially challenging time," she said.

For example, we fail to understand the need for FEA to contract out the writing of its Annual Report last year a task that could have been done internally.

FEA has become too reliant on the taxpayers of Fiji to fund its unnecessary activities because many consumers are already vigilant in their use of energy.

According to Ms Kumar, the consumers are cutting back on their amount of energy consumption to enable them some savings that could be diverted in the purchase of other household necessities.

However, their efforts of saving the extra few cents would prove fruitless if they end up paying more in fuel surcharge, she said.

Interim Energy Minister Mahendra Chaudhry earlier today announced that there would be no increase in electricity charges from 12 June as earlier reported.

Chaudhry made the announcement following widespread reports by the media following an advertisement by the Commerce Commission.

Call for regional ombudsman in Pacific

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—The international charity Oxfam has called for the appointment of an independent ombudsman to monitor mining and development projects in the Pacific region.

It follows the release of a United Nations study which found that a third of all reported corporate human rights abuses take place in the Asia-Pacific.

An Oxfam spokeswoman, Shanta Martin, has told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat program, some Australian companies are engaged in practices in the Pacific they would never get away with in Australia.

"We've seen that companies, unfortunately, that are known in Australia for having fairly good standards won't be doing the same sorts of things in for example Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji and elsewhere," she said.

"I've worked with communities that are affected by the Tolikuma tolikum gold mine in Papua New Guinea which for many years was operated by Emperor Mines which was an Australian-listed company - and that mining operation disposes of mine waste in the river system.

"Now, that's an activity that we wouldn't accept here in Australia."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment to the Saipan Zoning Law and Official Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask your comments on proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 and Official Zoning Maps. The proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law affect many parts of the law including: definitions of terms, exemptions and area of jurisdiction, the types of uses permitted in certain areas (zones), standards (requirements) for temporary uses and roadside merchandise stands, standards for certain uses, building design, signs and lighting, lot line adjustments, subdivisions, road standards, and editorial changes. The proposed amendments to the Official Zoning Map (rezones) are on map sheets 01, 03, 09, 13, 14, 16, 26, and 29

Public open house to explain the proposals:
Date: Friday, June 13, 2007
Time: 2:00 pm and repeat at 6:30 pm
Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

Public Hearing on the proposals:
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2008
Time: 6:30 pm
Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

The proposed amendments and map changes may be viewed at
Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps. The Board will also decide whether to recommend any or all of the amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law for adoption by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and they must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, Thursday, June 19, 2008. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Request for Rezone Proposals for Adult Business Park
ZB P # 08-01

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is requesting rezone proposals for establishment of one or more adult business park zoning districts on Saipan. The result of a successful rezone proposal will be a proposed regulation designating a special zone for adult businesses. The result will not be a contract to provide any adult business service.

An adult business park zoning district is one or more lots and/or buildings that may be developed for the use of one or more adult businesses. According to the Saipan Zoning Law no new adult business, and, eventually, no old adult business, will be allowed except in an approved adult business district. The Law authorizes the Zoning Board to establish adult business park zoning districts in locations that meet certain requirements for road access, impact on health, safety, or welfare of adjacent land uses, and appropriate property management.

The Zoning Board will evaluate the rezone proposals and consider which, if any, are appropriate to include in draft regulations. (See Section 514 of the Saipan Zoning Law, available on www.zoning.gov.mp, "Zoning Law", Article 5). Once the draft regulations are prepared, they will be sent out for public review and comment. The Board's action is just the first step in the creation of an adult business park. The private sector will ordinarily be responsible for the next steps – acquiring property, permits and licenses and construction and operation.

Content of rezone proposals
Rezone proposals shall be submitted on the form "Rezone proposal for an Adult Business Park Zoning District" and be accompanied by all required attachments. The form is available in PDF format on the Zoning Board website at www.zoning.gov.mp.

We will send you a copy of the form in MS Word format if you e-mail a request to staff@zoning.gov.mp. Referenced materials may be downloaded from the Zoning Office website www.zoning.gov.mp.

Format of rezone proposals
You must submit in hard copy and electronically:
- One original and 9 copies
- On 81/2" x 11" or 11" x 17" paper; and
- One electronic file version in PDF, MS Word or MS PowerPoint format, by email to staff@zoning.gov.mp (use subject line: Adult Business Park) or delivered on cd or floppy disk to the Zoning Office.

Where and when to submit rezone proposals and questions
Address your questions, the rezone proposal itself and other correspondence to: Attn: Adult Business Park RFP.
Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan
US Mail: Zoning Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp
Proposals must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, Friday, June 20, 2008.

Evaluation of rezone proposals
The Board's principal goals for this process are:
1. Provide a clustered area where adult businesses may function.
2. Protect public health and safety.
3. Insure compatibility with nearby land uses.
4. Promote an attractive area that enhances property values.

Of course, the Zoning Board will not compensate a person for expenses incurred in the preparation or submission of the rezone proposal; and the Board may accept or reject a rezone proposal as it deems prudent.

Authority: PL 6 - 32 (effective June 27, 1989), the "Zoning Code of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands." PL 6-32 § 1; 2 CMC § 7201 et seq. and the Saipan Zoning Law, 10 CMC § 3511, PLL 15-29, §§ 101 - 1414 and the Zoning Map. Section 514(b) of the Zoning Law empowers the Board, by regulation, to establish one or more Adult Business Park Zoning Districts.

HENRY S. HOFSCHNEIDER, Chairman

Island Snapshots

FAREWELL BASH FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Retired Judge Juan T. Lizama and his wife, Mariko, pose for a group photo with Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona, presiding judge Robert C. Naraja, Supreme Court associate justice Alexandro Castro and Judiciary personnel during last week's farewell party for Lizama at the Pacific Islands Club's Magellan Restaurant.

Retired Superior Court Judge Juan T. Lizama receives the Judiciary's plaque of appreciation from Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja during the farewell party for Lizama at the Pacific Islands Club's Magellan Restaurant held last week. Also in the photo are Mrs. Mariko Lizama, judge Ramona V. Manglona, and associate justice Alexandro Castro.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Arlene, Mae Rose and Aloha Torres stop by the Marianas House during a recent visit to Washington, D.C.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MARIANAS HOUSE VISITORS
Vinni Flores Orsini, center, the National Geographic Bee representative for the Pacific territories, is shown here with his parents Andrew and Bertha and siblings Andy and Angeline, together with teacher escort Heather Linday during a visit to the Marianas House in Washington, D.C..

'WHERE'S MY CHECK?'
Hundreds of taxpayers gather at the Division of Revenue and Taxation at the Joeten DanDan to file their income tax returns and correct deficiencies that prevent them from getting their "economic stimulus" payments.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ROTARY GUEST
Irene Tantiado, president of the Coalition for United Guest Workers, delivers her speech during the Saipan Rotary Club's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's restaurant.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CONGRATULATIONS!
Congratulations to Darlene Andres-Mongami, left, on your graduation from Axia College of University of Phoenix Online with your Associates in Business Management. Shown with Darlene are her husband Marshon Mongami and baby boy Mat Masayoshi Andres Mongami at their home in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. With the associate's degree out of the way, she is continuing with her bachelor's degree online with the University of Phoenix Online. "We love you and believe in you, keep up the good work. Keep it up!" Greetings come from your husband, your children, and your entire family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students of the Oleai Elementary School's Head Start recite the Pledge of Allegiance during their promotion ceremony held at the school campus on May 30, 2008.

NEW GRADUATE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Congratulations to our charming Denise Samson who graduated last Monday. She celebrated the occasion with a party at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday to Jocelyn Kapileo. Greetings come from the DPL staff.

Business

NMC, CDA host free time management workshop

In collaboration with the Commonwealth Development Authority, the Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free Time Management Workshop on June 12, 2008 from 8am to 12pm at Room 215 in Building V at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje Facilitating this free workshop will be Rik Villegas, a business instructor at the college.

■ By attending this workshop, participants will be able to do the following: Understand the value of time and the natural laws that govern effective time management;

■ Use the Productivity Pyramid to align values and long-term goals with daily tasks;

■ Use a time management matrix to quickly distinguish time-wasters from high-priority items;

■ Implement the 80/20 principle to focus on high-value items that produce results;

■ Create a personal time management system to improve efficiency and effectiveness; and

■ Implement the six steps to better time management and high-output work performance.

Those who wish to register or find out more information can contact Loly Kingzio at 234-5498 ext. 1210 or by emailing Eric Plinske at ericp@nmcnet.edu. *(NMC)*

Oil prices drop below $122 a barrel

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Oil dropped below $122 a barrel Thursday in Asia, extending its decline from last month's record after the U.S. Energy Department said gasoline demand fell sharply last week.

In its weekly inventory report, the department's Energy Information Administration said U.S. demand for gasoline dipped 1.4 percent over the last four weeks. Meanwhile, gasoline inventories rose by 2.9 million barrels last week, more than three times the increase analysts polled by energy research firm Platts had expected.

Concerns about demand have helped pull oil down about 10 percent from its May 22 high of $135.09. Those concerns were exacerbated Wednesday by the EIA report and by moves by India and Malaysia to cut fuel subsidies, effectively raising their retail prices for everything from gasoline to cooking gas. Many investors believe subsidy cuts will choke off demand for fuel in the developing world.

"There's definitively smaller demand, (and) you have subsidies that are going to fall in energy consuming nations," said James Cordier, president of Tampa, Fla.-based trading firms Liberty Trading Group and OptionSellers.com. "The psychology is just changing."

Midmorning in Singapore, light, sweet crude for July delivery was down 51 cents at $121.79 barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell $2.01 in the floor session to settle at $122.30 a barrel.

That was oil's lowest settlement since May 6.

The EIA also said inventories of distillates, which include diesel and heating oil, rose by 2.3 million barrels. Investors shrugged off an unexpected decrease in crude oil inventories.

India announced increases that, for example, would boost gasoline prices in New Delhi by 11 percent. Malaysia said it would hike gasoline prices by 40 percent and electricity for commercial and industrial users by 26 percent.

Indonesia and Taiwan, among others, have taken similar steps in recent weeks.

Many analysts have long questioned whether high oil prices could be sustained; many blame speculative investing fueled by the falling dollar for a near doubling of crude prices over the past year.

Among the main factors cited for sustained high prices is the unexpected decline so far this year in production from some of the world's key exporters, particularly Russia, Venezuela and Mexico.

In other Nymex trading in Asian hours, heating oil futures fell 0.95 cent to $3.5363 a gallon while gasoline prices dropped 1.01 cents to $3.185 a gallon. Natural gas futures rose 1.4 cents to $12.393 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The July natural gas futures rose 15.8 cents to settle at $12.379 Wednesday, again boosted by forecasts for hot temperatures in parts of the U.S. this weekend. That would boost demand from utilities for electricity generation to cool homes and businesses.

AP

High gas prices posted at a Chevron gas station in Oakland, Calif., Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

Stocks wobble as financials weigh on sentiment

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street ended a wobbly session with a mixed performance Wednesday as concerns about the financial sector eroded enthusiasm over a decline in oil prices and a report that signaled modest growth in the service economy.

The worries about financial companies flared after Moody's Investors Service warned it might downgrade the ratings on bond insurers Ambac Assurance Corp. and MBIA Insurance Corp.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 12.37, or 0.10 percent, to 12,390.48.

Broader indexes were mixed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.45, or 0.03 percent, to 1,377.20, while the Nasdaq rose 22.66, or 0.91 percent, to 2,503.14.

Bond prices fell as stocks advanced. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.98 percent in late trading on Wednesday from 3.89 percent in the previous session. The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Verizon in talks to buy Alltel

NEW YORK (AP)—Verizon Wireless is in talks to buy Alltel Communications LLC, the country's fifth-largest wireless carrier by subscribers, for $27 billion, according to news reports.

If consummated, an acquisition would be the biggest telecom deal since AT&T Inc. bought BellSouth Corp. at the end of 2006. Adding Alltel's 13.2 million subscribers to Verizon Wireless' 67.2 million would create the largest wireless carrier in the country, far ahead of AT&T Inc. with 71.4 million customers.

Talks are at a sensitive stage, according to CNBC and The Wall Street Journal. Both reports cited unnamed sources close to the discussions. Representatives of Verizon Communications Inc. and Alltel had no comment Wednesday.

Shares of Verizon Communications, the controlling parent of Verizon Wireless, dipped after the report, closing down 38 cents, or 1 percent, to $36.98. Verizon Wireless' other parent is Vodafone Group PLC of Britain, with a 45 percent share of the joint venture.

Little Rock, Ark.-based Alltel was a public company until it was bought out by TPG Capital and GS Capital Partners in November for $24.7 billion. It has a wide-ranging network covering parts of 35 states, mainly in the middle of the country.

A deal could save Verizon Wireless more than $1 billion per year, according to analyst Christopher King at Stifel Nicolaus. Verizon Wireless now pays hundreds of millions in roaming charges every year to Alltel, he estimated.

King also remarked that Alltel's private-equity owners would likely jump at a chance to sell, since tight credit markets could make it difficult to wrest a profit from the highly leveraged company. He expects a deal would pass regulatory review, but Verizon Wireless may have to divest radio licenses in some areas.

Verizon Wireless uses the same network technology as the majority of Alltel's network. That makes Verizon Wireless a more likely acquirer than AT&T Inc., which uses an incompatible technology. Regulatory scrutiny of an AT&T deal would also be tougher, since AT&T is the largest carrier.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chrysler may be next to announce production cuts

DETROIT (AP)—With truck and sport utility vehicle sales tumbling and its U.S.-based competitors either closing factories or cutting production, Chrysler LLC may be the next automaker to announce further cuts. While workers are anxious and industry analysts say additional measures are inevitable, Chrysler says that moves announced late last year are sufficient for now to deal with the declining U.S. auto market. Chrysler's sales were down 25 percent in May, a month in which the whole market dropped 11 percent compared with May of last year. Through the first five months of 2008, Chrysler's sales were off 19 percent, with huge drops in larger vehicles that make up most of its lineup.

United slashes staff, planes in cost-cutting move

CHICAGO (AP)—United Airlines said Wednesday that it's cutting up to 1,100 more jobs, removing an additional 70 fuel-guzzling airplanes from its fleet and slashing domestic capacity as it tries to cope with spiraling fuel prices. The nation's No. 2 carrier said it plans to cut an additional 900 to 1,100 salaried, contract and management employees by the end of the year, in addition to 500 previously announced job reductions. The combined reductions mean the airline is cutting nearly 3 percent of its 55,000 workers worldwide. United said it plans to ground its entire fleet of 94 Boeing B737s as well as six of the company's 747s. It previously said it was going to mothball 30 of the jets.

Paramount Vantage, Paramount combining operations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paramount Pictures said Wednesday it will combine its marketing, distribution and production functions with indie label Paramount Vantage. Rob Moore, vice chairman of Paramount Pictures, said in a statement provided Wednesday that the combination of the two Los Angeles-based units of Viacom Inc. will be more efficient. The merger will initially result in the loss of three executive positions, said a person familiar with the situation who was not authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity. It was unclear if further jobs might be lost or when the combination will occur, the person said.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,633.900 Down 64.300 (-1.13%)

HONG KONG 24,236.65 Up 113.40 (+0.47%)

JAKARTA 2,363.0249 Up 0.437 (+0.02%)

TOKYO 14,379.66 Down 55.91 (-0.39%)

K. LUMPUR 1,253.12 Down 4.45 (-0.35%)

MANILA 2,718.42 Down 54.70 (-1.97%)

SINGAPORE 3,118.18 Down 16.62 (-0.53%)

SEOUL 1,831.81 Down 2 (-0.11%)

BANGKOK 801.32 Down 7.60 (-0.94%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 12,390.48 -12.37

NASDAQ 2,503.14 +22.66

S&P 1,377.20 -0.45

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0486
British Pound	0.5125
Canadian Dollar	1.0147
Chinese Renmbi	6.943
Euro	0.6491
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8091
Indian Rupee	42.915
Indonesian Rupiah	9322
Japanese Yen	105.512
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2585
New Zealand Dollar	1.3052
Philippine Peso	44.073
Singapore Dollar	1.3687
South Korean Won	1021.95
Swiss Franc	1.045
Taiwan Dollar	30.413
Thailand Baht	32.88

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Too educated for entry level?

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
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Can too much education hurt your chances of getting hired? Some workers and recruiters say it can, especially for entry-level jobs.

Can too much education hurt your chances of getting hired? Some workers and recruiters say it can, especially for entry-level jobs.

Carrie Reiling, an editor in Irvine, Calif., said she had difficulty finding a job in the Washington area several years ago with a master's degree in international relations. "My salary and job expectations were in line with the nonprofit associations in which I wanted to work, and I had three D.C. nonprofit internships under my belt and some international experience, but I just couldn't seem to find anything," she said.

She waited tables and worked as a receptionist for more than a year before finally getting a job with a government contractor.

After a few months at that job, her supervisor shared with Reiling that she had been wary of hiring her because of her master's degree. Why? "They didn't want me to leave after three months," she said.

Reiling isn't alone in discovering employers might view her credentials as a negative.

"I can say there is some real truth to having a master's or above hurting you in the job search—but only if you have less than three to five years' experience," said Kate Warren, a recruiter in the international development industry.

Warren said that many of her clients frown upon hiring candidates with graduate degrees for junior-level positions. "Those with the graduate degrees always expected higher compensation and had a higher sense of entitlement to the kind of projects and level of work they should be doing. Most of the junior-level positions tend to be very administrative—thus the day-to-day tasks do not require a master's degree to perform well, but rather an organized, motivated individual."

In some cases, it comes down to money. "Why hire a grad student for 40K-plus when you can hire a recent undergrad for 30K?" Warren said.

"And it goes beyond just the salary. The recent undergrads actually tend to perform better, and stay in their job longer, than the master's holders will. Obviously there are exceptions, but generally the B.A.-level employee will be much more eager to tackle the admin-level tasks ... often required in this level of position. Generally speaking, master's students come in with a somewhat inflated sense of abilities or just end up generally frustrated with the 'mundane' tasks they are asked to do."

There's a common refrain among these workers, Warren said: "I went to graduate school, got myself into XX amount of dollars of debt to do this?"

So what do you do if you ARE willing to do the grunt work? How do you get employers to give your overeducated self a chance?

"I don't advocate for leaving off their degree," Warren said, "but I think it is important that they get across in a cover letter, and if it gets to this point, an interview that they are more than eager to roll up their sleeves. When hiring, I always appreciated when candidates were upfront that while they realized the day-to-day wouldn't be the most glamorous of tasks, they were motivated by the fact that these are necessary steps in reaching the overall goals and missions of the organization."

Here, Warren also sees a case for working a few years before pursuing a graduate degree. "If you go straight from undergrad to grad, you will be competing for jobs with recent undergrads—jobs (in) which your master's will give you no edge and could actually be to your detriment."

However, she said, people who take entry-level jobs out of college, work their way up and then head back to school will find that their graduate degree will be more valued.

That can be true even when the degree isn't specifically required for the job. Nancy McGuire, a suburban communications consultant, said that a doctorate wasn't necessary for her mid-level job, but that her PhD in chemistry was a definite plus. "My employer was looking for someone who could read some very technical publications and translate the information into lay terms," she said.

The subject matter doesn't even relate directly to her degree. "I'm covering everything from robotics to wireless communications to supercomputing, not a chemistry article in the whole lot," she said.

In the environment where she works, she feels that having a doctorate gives her influence she might not otherwise have. "The PhD also gives me some pull with the Ivy Leaguers on the project, since they tend to ignore mere mortals with master's degrees."

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Shave dollars off your grocery bill

By DAVID UFFINGTON
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The Department of Labor says that it now costs more than $700 per month to feed the average family—and costs are still rising.

Here are some ways to shave dollars off your grocery bill:

■ Make a list, and stick to it. Set a not-to-exceed dollar amount if you spot genuinely good bargains while you shop.

■ Eat before you go. Shopping on a full stomach will cut down on impulse purchases.

■ Get in, get out. The longer you're in a store, the more you're going to spend. Look down each aisle. If you don't need anything in that aisle, don't go down it.

■ Check the unit pricing on everything you buy. A bigger package isn't necessarily cheaper. With meats, check the cut: A more expensive piece of lean meat might be a better deal if you're not paying for the bone.

■ Buy store brands for a week and see if you can tell the difference.

■ Cut down on convenience foods as much as possible. Time is a consideration for most people, but on a Friday night you can save more than $10 by making your own pizza and making popcorn the old fashioned way on the stove.

■ Buy as little packaging as possible. Individually wrapped sliced cheese and yogurt in small containers cost more.

■ Select cheaper cuts of meat that can be tenderized in a crockpot. Make extra and freeze it.

■ Buy whole chickens instead of parts and do the cutting yourself.

■ Check the per-pound cost of fruits and vegetables like apples and potatoes. You might get a better deal if you select each one instead of grabbing a large bag that might end up going to waste.

■ Buy plain rice, pasta and cereals and add your own spices or sweeteners.

■ Cut down on the number of trips to the store. Not only will you save gas, but you'll save on impulse purchases.

■ Compare sales flyers for local grocery stores. In spite of gas costs, it might pay to go to more than one store to take advantage of sales.

■ Consider whether it's worthwhile to buy a small freezer to stock up on sales or extra meals you've made.

■ Price fruits and vegetables in season at your local farmers market and compare to store prices.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Networking, targeting may help in search

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
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Q: I'm a recent law school graduate who has yet to secure my first job. I'm growing desperate. I've sent out 330 resumes to the Hill, feds, nonprofits, trade associations, campaigns and law firms. I've even applied for bartending and waiting tables, only to be told I'm overqualified. What do I do?

A: Are you just mailing (or e-mailing) resumes blind? Or are you networking through professional associations, your law school's alumni group, etc? You need to think quality, not quantity.

Completing a single federal job application can take a full week, so I have a hard time believing you're putting the right level of effort behind pursuing jobs at carefully selected employers.

And no one is overqualified to wait tables and tend bar in Washington.

■ ■ ■

Q: How do you leave a job, when you know your boss will go out of his way to destroy you if you leave? How do you manage to put a good foot forward when the one person overseeing your work will certainly not provide a reference or recommendation?

A: Get a reference from another co-worker, preferably someone who is your boss' equal or better.

Not working well for one person doesn't doom you to a lifetime of unemployment.

Edited questions from Career Tracks, an online discussion about workplace issues.

Archaeology, not just an adventure

By PATRICIA KITCHEN
© 2008, NEWSDAY

NEW YORK—Indiana Jones, movie-theater archaeologist and hero of "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," may regularly come across lost cities and mystical artifacts. But what is it that real-life career archaeologists find?

"One of the most important discoveries made this year was fossilized human feces found in Oregon, with the oldest preserved DNA in North America," said Kevin Vaughn, an assistant professor of anthropology at Purdue University, in an article on the school's news page.

"Obviously our lives are not as exciting as Hollywood makes them," said Vaughn, who studies the Nasca civilization of Peru.

He also said that more than half the jobs are in "cultural resource management," working to make sure that projects comply with various cultural heritage preservation laws, with a smaller number of jobs at museums or universities.

Careerwise, that would greatly reduce the adventure quotient but also the potential for running into snakes on the job.

AP

In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Harrison Ford is shown in a scene from the film, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

Nation

Obama forms team to help pick VP

Adviser says Clinton has decided to end campaign

‘She’s somebody who traveled this journey with me. She was extraordinarily capable and tenacious. I mean, she is just a great candidate.’

—Sen. Barack Obama, in describing Sen. Hillary Clinton to ABC News.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill. addresses the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference 2008, Wednesday, June 4, 2008, at the Washington Convention Center in Washington.

By NEDRA PICKLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack Obama turned to the hunt for a running mate Wednesday, with Hillary Rodham Clinton’s supporters urging him to put her on the ticket now that she’s decided to back his inevitable nomination.

Obama indicated he would at least consider his long-running rival for the No. 2 slot. “Senator Clinton would be on anybody’s short list, obviously,” he told CBS News, adding they agree on most all the issues.

Obama’s campaign announced the vetting of potential running mates was to be managed by a three-person team of one-time first daughter Caroline Kennedy, former Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder and Washington insider Jim Johnson.

Clinton has told lawmakers privately that she would be interested in the vice presidential nomination. Under pressure from Democratic leaders to step aside, a campaign official said Wednesday evening that she has decided to end her candidacy now that Obama has more than enough delegates to win the long primary race. She scheduled her announcement for Saturday.

News of Clinton’s decision broke as Obama attended a $2,300-per-person fundraiser on Park Avenue that he called “our first post-nomination event.” Attendees included “Sex and the City” actress Sarah Jessica Parker, President Kennedy’s speechwriter, Ted Sorensen, and Caroline Kennedy, with Obama noting her role in his vetting team before the crowd of about 200 supporters.

Asked about Clinton’s acknowledgment that he will be the Democratic nominee, Obama said, “Truth is, I haven’t had time to think about it. This weekend, I’m going home, talk it over with Michelle and we’re going on a date.”

Bob Johnson, the founder of Black Entertainment Television, was lobbying members of the Congressional Black Caucus to urge Obama to put Clinton on the ticket. He said he was doing so with her blessing.

New York Rep. Charles Rangel, a founding member of the caucus, expressed doubts that Johnson’s approach would work. “I don’t really think that the way to get Obama to (choose) Clinton would be to put pressure on him. I think it would have the opposite effect,” said Rangel, an early Clinton supporter.

In Nashville, Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen was joined by two other superdelegates to say they hoped to bring the party behind Obama even though Clinton won their state. Bredesen said Obama’s chances in his state would be improved with Clinton as his running mate, but added that it will be up the Illinois senator to make the decision that best fits his national strategy.

Obama told ABC News that Clinton is a “special case” to consider as a candidate for the vice presidency.

“She’s somebody who traveled this journey with me. She was extraordinarily capable and tenacious. I mean, she is just a great candidate,” Obama said.

The Obama camp’s disclosure about the three-person veep vetting team was an effort to change the subject from the long, divisive primary campaign toward the general election.

Kennedy’s name came as a surprise, although she endorsed Obama at a critical time last winter, saying he could be an inspirational leader like her father. She also campaigned for Obama.

Holder is a former federal prosecutor and District of Columbia Superior Court judge who held the No. 2 job at the Justice Department under President Clinton.

Johnson is widely known among Democrats for having helped previous candidates, including John Kerry four years ago, sift through vice presidential possibilities. He is a former chief executive officer for the mortgage lender Fannie Mae.

AP

Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., points during a media availability after a campaign event in Baton Rouge, La., Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

McCain challenges Obama on 10 town hall meetings

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) -- John McCain asked Barack Obama to join him in 10 town hall meetings with voters in the coming months, and their campaigns began negotiations to make it happen. McCain, the Republican nominee-in-waiting, made the request Wednesday, the day after Obama clinched the Democratic nomination.

“We need to now sit down and work out a way that we can have these town hall meetings and have a great debate,” McCain told reporters in Baton Rouge.

Campaign managers for the two sides later spoke by phone and agreed in spirit to participate in joint town hall appearances, McCain’s campaign said.

“They both expressed a commitment to raising the level of dialogue, and they will be in close contact as we work together to make this idea a reality,” McCain spokeswoman Jill Hazelbaker said.

McCain said the more intimate town hall format, a give-and-take between a candidate and the audience, allows real interaction and is more revealing than formal televised debates. He held 101 town hall meetings in New Hampshire before winning the primary there and launching his climb to the GOP nomination.

“I don’t think we need any big media-run production, no process question from reporters, no spin rooms,” McCain said. “Just two Americans running for office in the greatest nation on earth, responding to the questions of the people whose trust we must earn.”

McCain suggested the first town hall be held June 12 in New York and said he would love to fly there on a plane with Obama. He said President Kennedy had made such an agreement with Sen. Barry Goldwater for the 1964 election, though neither was their party’s nominee at the time. Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963.

A McCain adviser first floated the idea last month. At the time, Obama said, “I think that’s a great idea.”

“Obviously, we would have to think through the logistics on that, but ... if I have the opportunity to debate substantive issues before the voters with John McCain, that’s something that I am going to welcome,” Obama said in Bend, Ore., in May.

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe said Wednesday that while the idea is appealing, the campaign would recommend a less-structured, lengthier exchange more in line with the historic Lincoln-Douglas debates.

In the Lincoln-Douglas debates, held seven times during Abraham Lincoln’s losing Senate campaign against Stephen Douglas in Illinois in 1858, a candidate spoke for an hour, the other for an hour and a half, and the first candidate was allowed a half-hour rebuttal.

The exchange over town halls was civil, but McCain drew sharp criticism on other fronts involving Senate legislation on Hurricane Katrina and divestment from Iran:

■ Asked by a reporter why he voted twice against commissions to investigate the botched response to Hurricane Katrina, McCain insisted, “I’ve supported every investigation,” despite his votes to the contrary. Obama spokesman Hari Sevugan questioned whether McCain was unaware of his own voting record or was trying to mislead Louisiana residents.

■ Asked why he didn’t support an Obama bill forcing U.S. companies to divest from Iran, McCain said he wasn’t familiar with the bill. “I don’t know if it passed the Senate or had any hearing or anything else,” McCain said. Obama’s campaign pointed out that McCain’s top allies in Congress, Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman and the chief deputy whip of the House, Virginia Rep. Eric Cantor, supported it.

Obama, speaking Wednesday to Jewish leaders in Washington, linked McCain to Bush administration policies on the Middle East that he described as disastrous.

Storms blamed for 3 deaths across US

ANNANDALE, Va. (AP)—A band of storms that moved east from Indiana on Wednesday splintered homes, swept vehicles from flooded roads and dumped a historic covered bridge into a river. Three people were killed.

A woman died Wednesday afternoon when a tree fell on a vehicle in Annandale, a Washington, D.C., suburb, a fire department spokesman said.

Earlier Wednesday, authorities in West Virginia recovered the body of a 20-year-old man swept away while trying to drive his truck through high water. Gov. Joe Manchin declared a state of emergency in at least 15 West Virginia counties after flooding and mudslides closed numerous roads. Some places reported more than 3 inches of rain.

In storm-weary central Indiana, state police said a woman died Wednesday morning when she drove her car into rushing flood waters. A wave of thunderstorms that began Tuesday caused widespread flash flooding, with 5 inches of rain reported overnight in some areas.

A meteorologist in Virginia said storms in the mid-Atlantic were part of the same weather system that moved through the Midwest and Ohio Valley earlier Wednesday.

Also Wednesday, severe weather including high winds and rain hit Iowa, Colorado and Nebraska. In Nebraska, the Weather Service confirmed at least one tornado hit, but no serious injuries were immediately reported.

Residents were cleaning up in tiny Moscow, Ind., a community of about 80 residents 35 miles southeast of Indianapolis battered Tuesday by a tornado that destroyed one house, damaged four or five others and dumped a historic covered bridge into a river. State officials said another house was destroyed in Greene County, and aerial coverage showed some rural farm houses had been leveled.

One woman was in critical condition after being impaled in the upper chest by a 3-inch-diameter tree limb, said Charles Smith, chief of the Posey Township Volunteer Fire Department, who helped rescue her from storm debris.

"Her house was gone, along the side of the river bank. There's nothing left of it," he said. "She didn't talk, but she was moaning."

Another tornado damaged 40 buildings at the Indiana National Guard's Camp Atterbury, about 25 miles south of Indianapolis. Two soldiers suffered minor injuries as they sought shelter.

In the mid-Atlantic, hundreds of thousands of people lost power and train service was disrupted just ahead of rush hour Wednesday.

In Chesapeake Beach, Md., Mayor Gerald Donovan said one person was injured after an apparent tornado touched down and ripped the roofs and siding off several homes.

"It scared a lot of people in our town," Donovan told WRC-TV. "We're all very grateful more damage wasn't done."

AP

An Oak tree with a five foot base is seen Wednesday June 4, 2008 after high winds toppled it during an afternoon storm onto a historic home built in the 1890's in Arlington, Va.

Criminal case vs sect members possible

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—The polygamist sect raided by authorities two months ago has its children back. But with a criminal investigation under way into allegations of sexual abuse, the splinter group's troubles are not over.

Child-welfare officials have alleged that members of the sect pushed underage girls into marriages with older men, and while the last of 440 children seized from the ranch were returned to their parents Wednesday, prosecutors could still bring criminal charges.

"There have been criminal problems located out there," said Schleicher County Sheriff David Doran, who was with state troopers and child welfare authorities when they raided Yearning For Zion Ranch in west Texas on April 3.

The Texas Department of Public Safety and the attorney general's office have taken over the criminal investigation at the request of authorities in the rural ranching community. While they confirm they are investigating, neither will say how long the investigation may take.

Obtaining the DNA evidence and the testimony necessary to prove such a case could prove difficult.

DNA evidence acquired in the custody case is off limits to criminal investigators unless child welfare investigators find wrongdoing or law enforcement gets court permission, and a prosecution probably would go nowhere without at least one willing witness in the insular ranch community. Members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints had a strong distrust of outsiders even before all the children at the ranch were taken away.

Child-welfare officials had said that 31 teenage girls at the ranch were pregnant or had had children, but nearly all those the mothers turned out to be adults.

No more than five minors who are pregnant or have given birth were identified during the child custody hearings. Under Texas law, girls younger than 17 generally cannot consent to sex with an adult.

Glitch delays Mars lander digging

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- The Phoenix lander's first dig into the Martian soil for scientific study was delayed Wednesday because of a communications glitch on a spacecraft that relays commands from Earth to the red planet.

The orbiting Odyssey satellite went into safe mode and failed to send instructions to Phoenix to claw into the permafrost to search for evidence of the building blocks of life, said Chad Edwards, chief telecommunications engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

It's the second time a relay problem has delayed the lander's schedule. The first glitch occurred two days after it landed, when another satellite, the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, turned off its radio.

Engineers worked to fix the problem with Odyssey, which will remain offline until Saturday, Edwards said. A preliminary investigation revealed the safe mode was probably triggered by high-energy particles from space interrupting the satellite's computer memory.

"The lander is fine," Edwards said.

Phoenix set down in Mars' northern latitudes to study whether the polar environment is capable of supporting primitive life. It communicates with Earth through Odyssey and the Reconnaissance Orbiter, which make daily passes over the lander to send commands and beam back images.

With Odyssey temporarily out of service, engineers told the Reconnaissance Orbiter to be the middleman between the lander and Earth.

AP

This image released Wednesday, June 4, 2008, acquired by NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander's Robotic Arm camera shows material from the Martian surface captured by the robotic arm scoop on Tuesday June 3, 2008.

ACROSS THE NATION

Marine acquitted in Haditha killing cover-up case

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP)—A military jury acquitted a Marine intelligence officer Wednesday of charges that he tried to help cover up the killings of 24 Iraqis. Cheers erupted as the seven-officer panel cleared 1st Lt. Andrew Grayson, who was the first of three Marines to be tried in the biggest U.S. criminal case involving Iraqi deaths linked to the war. The verdict came just five hours after deliberations began. Grayson, who has always maintained he did nothing wrong, was not at the scene of the killings of men, women and children on Nov. 19, 2005, in Haditha. He was accused of telling a sergeant to delete photographs of the dead from a digital camera and laptop computer.

Political fundraiser convicted in corruption trial

CHICAGO (AP)—A prominent fundraiser for Sen. Barack Obama and Gov. Rod Blagojevich was convicted of fraud, money laundering and bribery Wednesday after a trial that exposed a corrupt culture of payoffs and campaign finance abuses plaguing Illinois politics. Antoin "Tony" Rezko, 52, who according to witnesses wielded wide powers within the Blagojevich administration and now faces a stiff prison sentence, was immediately taken into custody following the verdict. U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald told reporters the verdict represented "an antidote to the poison of corruption" that testimony alleged included the fixing of state boards that controlled a $40 billion pension fund and made major decisions about hospital construction.

La. lawmaker's siblings, niece charged with fraud

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A brother, sister and niece of indicted U.S. Rep. William Jefferson were charged Wednesday with pocketing more than $600,000 in state and federal grant money intended for charitable and educational projects. A federal grand jury indicted New Orleans tax assessor Betty Jefferson, her brother, Mose Jefferson, and her daughter, Angela Coleman, on charges that include federal program fraud, identity theft and conspiracy to commit money laundering. U.S. Attorney Jim Letten said the family members used several nonprofit and for-profit companies to obtain grants designed to help pregnant teens, at-risk youths and others in need of assistance. They allegedly deposited some of the grant money into personal checking accounts and used it for personal expenses.

Soldier's skeleton found on base

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Authorities were trying to determine Wednesday whether the remains of a soldier found in the woods of a National Guard training base are of a Kentucky guardsman who went missing before his unit deployed to Iraq.

Longnecker

Forrest County Coroner Butch Benedict said the remains, found Tuesday on the grounds of Camp Shelby, were in an Army uniform. Firearms were nearby. The 136,000-acre base is just south of Hattiesburg.

Lt. Col. Doril Sanders, a base spokesman, would confirm only that human remains were found on the base. He said the Army's crime lab will use DNA and dental records for identification.

Pfc. Ryan K. Longnecker, who was 19 at the time, was training at Camp Shelby when he disappeared Aug. 6, 2007, along with his military-issued 9mm pistol and M4 assault rifle.

Shirley Ann Longnecker, the soldier's paternal grandmother, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that military investigators found her grandson's identification with the remains. However, she said the military stopped short of saying the remains belonged to Ryan Longnecker.

She said she doesn't know what may have happened to him.

"He seemed to be a people person, but he wasn't getting along with some of the people down there," Shirley Ann Longnecker said, adding that her grandson had once tried to get out of the military.

Longnecker is currently the only soldier reported missing from Camp Shelby, Sanders said. However, neither Sanders nor Benedict could confirm if the remains belong to the missing soldier.

Benedict said "the condition of the bones would probably be consistent" with decomposition that would occur in the timeframe since Longnecker was last seen.

Asia

Military chief: Armed forces not strong enough to defend RP

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military cannot fully defend the country from external threats due to a lack of weapons and a preoccupation with crushing long-running communist and Muslim insurgencies, the country's new military chief said Wednesday.

Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano, however, said an aggressive military campaign has contained threats posed by renegade troops behind several failed coup attempts.

Yano, who was sworn in as head of the 120,000-strong military last month, said he will focus on strengthening military capabilities to defeat a variety of internal threats, including communist New People's Army rebels, Muslim separatist guerrillas and al-Qaida-linked militants.

A more ambitious modernization of the ill-equipped navy and air force to better guard the country from external threats will have to wait, he told business leaders in Manila's Makati financial district.

"To be very frank with you, our capability as far as these aspects are concerned is a little deficient," Yano said. "We cannot really defend all these areas because of a lack of equipment."

The Philippine military, one of Asia's weakest, has struggled in the past to modernize and retrain its troops but has run into funding shortfalls. Its problems have been compounded by corruption and restiveness within the ranks.

A current modernization program focuses on bolstering soldiers' capability to "move, shoot, communicate" against local insurgents, Yano said.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has ordered the military to crush communist rebels—considered the leading national security threat—by the time her term ends in 2010.

Al-Qaida claims attack on Danish embassy

By PAKINAM AMER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—A Web posting purportedly by al-Qaida Thursday claimed responsibility for a suicide attack near Denmark's embassy in Pakistan that left six people dead.

The statement said Monday's bombing fulfilled the promise of terror mastermind Osama bin Laden to exact revenge for Danish papers reprinting a cartoon of Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

The attack in Islamabad was a "warning to this infidel nation and whoever follows its example," said the message carried on a Web site frequently used by the Islamic militants.

Denmark "published the insulting drawings," it said, adding that the European country later "refused to apologize for publishing them. Instead they repeated their act."

Though officials investigating Monday's attack, have not confirmed the terror group's role, Danish authorities have said al-Qaida or one of its affiliates was likely behind it. There have been no arrests.

The bomb detonated outside the embassy and also wounded at least 35 people. It damaged the embassy building as well as nearby offices and cars.

The statement was signed by an al-Qaida commander in Afghanistan, Mustafa Abu al-Yazeed and dated Tuesday, but its authenticity couldn't immediately be verified.

Many suicide bombings in Pakistan are believed to have been planned in its semiautonomous tribal regions along the Afghan border, where al-Qaida and Taliban militants have found sanctuary and which are the focus of peace efforts.

The statement said the attack was carried out by an al-Qaida martyr and thanked Pakistani jihadists who helped prepare and execute the plot.

The attack boosted concerns that Pakistan's efforts to strike peace deals with militants along the Afghan border are failing to curb Islamic extremist violence. Washington has also expressed concerns that the two-month-old Pakistani government's efforts to negotiate with some armed groups in the northwest could give al-Qaida and Taliban hard-liners time to regroup and intensify attacks in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

DEADLY FIRE AP

Residents stay inside a covered basketball court for temporary shelter after their houses were gutted by a fire that killed three people in the impoverished Tondo town in suburban Manila, Philippines on Thursday June 5, 2008. The four-hour blaze, believed to have been caused by toppled candles, left at least 2,500 homeless and destroyed more than 100 shanties, each housing about 20 people. Three members of a single family suffocated while trying to escape along an alleyway, while two people were injured, including a 19-year-old hit by a fire truck.

Bangladeshi police detain over 10,000 before voting

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh's military-led security forces said Wednesday they have detained more than 10,000 people in a nationwide anti-crime drive over the past week, but political parties accused the government of targeting their members in a political crackdown.

Police Chief Nur Mohammad said the special drive was launched last Friday to improve law and order before national elections planned late this year.

He said more than 1,700 people were detained in the past day, taking the number of detainees to more than 10,000.

South Korea's ruling party loses in elections

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's ruling party suffered a bruising defeat in local by-elections Wednesday, amid public discontent with President Lee Myung-bak's handling of a beef import agreement with the United States.

The elections were limited in scale, with only 52 seats at stake out of the 3,867 local posts nationwide, and were marred by a low voter turnout. Still, the result clearly contrasted with April's parliamentary elections in which Lee's party won a majority.

The ruling Grand National Party won nine seats, while the main opposition United Democratic Party grabbed 23 seats and the rest went to minor opposition parties or independents.

The results were posted on the National Election Commission's Web site.

Several hundred votes had yet to be counted in one district, but they would not affect the outcome of election of the UDP candidate, commission official Wu Jae-young said Thursday.

In elections for the nine heads of local governments—which are considered more important than the other posts at local councils—the GNP won one of them, with the main opposition taking three while the remaining seats were clinched by independents.

"We'll humbly accept public sentiments shown in the June 4 elections," GNP spokeswoman Cho Yoon-seon said in a statement.

Voter turnout was 23.2 percent.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine inflation hits 9-year high

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Soaring oil and food prices pushed May inflation in the Philippines to a nine-year high of 9.6 percent, official data showed Thursday. The government said the increase in prices from a year ago was the fastest since January 1999, when inflation hit 10.5 percent, and up from an inflation rate of 8.3 percent in April. The new data raises the average inflation rate for the January-May period to 6.9 percent, well above the central bank's target range of 3 percent to 5 percent for the whole year. Banking giant HSBC said the latest figure suggested inflation "may breach into double-digit territory before dropping back on account of easing global commodity prices and slowing economic activity."

Indonesian police detain 59 after attack

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Fifty-nine members of a hard-line Muslim group were taken in for questioning Wednesday following a bloody attack on an interfaith rally in the Indonesian capital, lawyers and police said. More than 1,500 troops were deployed at the headquarters of the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI), which has a long record of torching buildings of rival groups, vandalizing nightspots and hurling stones at Western embassies. Among those detained was FPI leader Rizieq Shihab, the alleged mastermind of Sunday's attack on hundreds of Christians, moderate Muslims and minority sect members, said national police spokesman Abubakar Nataprawira.

Magnitude 5.3 aftershock hits China

MIANYANG, China (AP)—The U.S. Geological Survey says a 5.3 magnitude aftershock has shaken China's quake-battered Sichuan province. The aftershock on Thursday came amid concerns over rising water levels in a lake formed by landslides from the massive May 12 temblor. There were no immediate reports of new damage or injuries. The Survey reported the aftershock struck at 12:41 a.m. EDT just south of the town of Qingchuan at the relatively shallow depth of about 6 miles.

Bomb targets train in Sri Lanka, 18 hurt

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A bomb blast targeting a passenger train wounded 18 passengers and bystanders in Sri Lanka's capital Wednesday in the latest attack on civilians. Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara blamed Tamil Tiger rebels for the attack in the Wellawatte district of Colombo. The blast went off near railroad tracks just after a train passed. The train suffered only slight damage, but 18 people including passengers and bystanders near the tracks were wounded, the military and a hospital official said. The victims were admitted to the Kalubowila Teaching Hospital for treatment, said Dr. Wilfred Kumarasinghe. All were in stable condition, he said.

World

Truck blast kills 18, wounds 75 in Iraq

AP

Civilians inspect a burned vehicle after a suspected car bomb explosion, in the Ash Sha'b neighborhood of northern Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

By ROBERT H. REID
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BAGHDAD (AP)—A truck packed with rockets blew up Wednesday in a Shiite area of Baghdad, killing 18 people in the deadliest single blast in the city in more than three months. Three U.S. soldiers were killed by gunfire north of the capital.

A U.S. military spokesman said the blast appeared to have been an accident that occurred as Shiite militiamen were transporting the weapons through a densely populated neighborhood of northern Baghdad—possibly to fire at a nearby American base.

Iraqi police said a suicide truck bomber had targeted the house of an Iraqi police general, who was not at home but whose nephew was among those killed. U.S. officials said 75 people were wounded, and police said they included the general's elderly parents.

But the U.S. military disputed the police account, saying Shiite extremists were transporting rockets and mortars on a tractor-trailer when the weapons mistakenly exploded. Witnesses also confirmed the vehicle was carrying weapons.

"They were trying to attack us ... and it went off (accidentally)" said U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Steve Stover, who provided the death toll. "They wouldn't waste rockets like that" on a suicide attack.

The force of the blast crumbled several two-story buildings, buried cars under rubble, sheared off a corrugated steel roof and left a large crater on the residential street.

It was the deadliest single explosion in Baghdad since March 3, when a suicide car bomber killed 22 people in eastern Baghdad. Sixteen people died in a mortar attack in the Shiite militia stronghold of Sadr City on April 9.

Wednesday's carnage was a grim reminder of the bombs and killings that rocked the capital before President Bush rushed about 30,000 reinforcements to Iraq last year to curb a wave of Shiite-Sunni slaughter.

More recently, violence has dropped sharply since a May 11 cease-fire ended seven weeks of fighting between U.S. and Iraqi soldiers and Shiite militiamen in the capital's Sadr City district.

WORLD BRIEFS

Accused 9/11 plotters due in Guantanamo court

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—Almost seven years after terrorists hijacked airliners and used them as missiles to kill 2,973 people, five men who allegedly plotted the attacks face a military tribunal Thursday. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the confessed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, will be arraigned simultaneously with four other detainees inside a high-security courthouse at the remote U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Mohammed boasted of numerous attacks and plots against the United States in a closed military hearing last year, and the al-Qaida kingpin and his confederates will be given the chance to speak out again in their war crimes trial, according to a top tribunal official, Air Force Brig. Gen. Tom Hartmann.

Northern Ireland parties announce deal

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)—The rival parties in Northern Ireland's power-sharing administration announced a deal Wednesday that will permit both sides to elect a new leader and keep their unlikely coalition running. The British Protestants of the Democratic Unionist Party and the Irish Catholics of Sinn Fein said they would jointly elect new leaders to the year-old coalition when the Northern Ireland Assembly convenes Thursday. The election is necessary because the administration's leader, First Minister Ian Paisley, is stepping down and handing the top job to his longtime deputy, Finance Minister Peter Robinson.

French police recover 4 paintings stolen in August

MARSEILLE, France (AP)—Police on Wednesday recovered a Monet landscape and three other paintings that were stolen by masked gunmen from a museum on the French Riviera last August, judicial officials said. The paintings from the Museum of Fine Arts in Nice were discovered in a utility vehicle parked in the port city of Marseille, the prosecutor's office said. About 10 people were brought in for questioning in simultaneous sweeps in Nice, Marseille and nearby Bandol and their homes were searched, the prosecutor's office said. Police said investigators tracked the people for weeks and moved in as suspects were planning a sale of the art. The paintings were stolen Aug. 5 by gunmen as a handful of visitors milled about the museum in Nice.

Married police couple slain in Mexico

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—A husband and wife, both state police officers, were shot dead Wednesday while leaving their home in this Mexican border city where drug gangs have stepped up attacks against security forces. Gabriel Padilla Perez's body was found at the entrance of his home in Ciudad Juarez, said Cesar Ramirez, a spokesman for the regional Attorney General's office. His wife, Claudia Tovar Carreon, was found dead on the sidewalk. The couple had two young children. More than a dozen police officers have been killed in the city this year, including seven whose names had appeared on hit lists believed to have been distributed by a drug cartel. Others have resigned. Neither Padilla nor Tovar were on the lists.

Al-Qaida's No. 2 urges holy war for Gaza

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Al-Qaida's No. 2 leader called on Muslims to launch a holy war to break Israel's economic blockade of the Gaza Strip, in an audio recording posted Wednesday on an Islamic militant Internet site.

In the 11-minute tape, a voice purportedly belonging to Ayman al-Zawahri says in Arabic that the "salvation of the Muslim nation is through the march of its sons on the path of jihad."

An accompanying banner says the message was issued to mark the 41st anniversary of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, during which Egypt lost the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula, Syria lost the Golan Heights and Jordan lost the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

Trying to minimize the shock of the defeat, Arabs have long called the war the "naksa" - "setback" in Arabic - but it remains a deep wound.

In al-Zawahri's recording, titled "In Memory of the Naksa ... Break the Siege of Gaza," Osama bin Laden's deputy blames Arab regimes for the 1967 defeat. He says Arab governments were "impotent and unable to protect the Muslim nation, its sanctuaries and its wealth."

al-Zawahri

"The sons of the nation should break the shackles of the treacherous regimes and move to wage jihad, which has become a duty," al-Zawahri says.

The tape follows a audio message from Bin Laden on May 18 in which he criticized Arab states for not waging war against Israel.

Al-Zawahri's message seemed especially directed at Hamas, the Islamic militant group that seized control of the Gaza Strip last June in fighting with supporters of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Abbas' government is now based in the West Bank, leaving the Palestinian territories split.

Hamas' seizure of Gaza and its near daily firing of rockets at towns in southern Israel has prompted Israel to impose a blockade on the strip and mount airstrikes and occasional ground operations in Gaza.

AP

CHOPPER CRASH
Firefighters spray foam on a helicopter in Panama City, Wednesday, June 4, 2008. A small Panamanian commercial helicopter with five passengers on board crashed at a local airport. No injured were reported.

Outcry after French court rules on virginity

PARIS (AP)—The bride said she was a virgin. When her new husband discovered that was a lie, he went to court to annul the marriage—and a French judge agreed.

The ruling ending the Muslim couple's union has stunned France and raised concerns the country's much-cherished secular values are losing ground to cultural traditions from its fast-growing immigrant communities.

The decision also exposed the silent shame borne by some Muslim women who transgress long-held customs demanding proof of virginity on the wedding night.

In its ruling, the court concluded the woman had misrepresented herself as a virgin and that, in this particular marriage, virginity was a prerequisite.

But in treating the case as a breach of contract, the ruling was decried by critics who said it undermined decades of progress in women's rights. Marriage, they said, was reduced to the status of a commercial transaction in which women could be discarded by husbands claiming to have discovered hidden defects in them.

Tsvangirai detained, then freed

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—The leader of Zimbabwe's opposition was detained by police for about nine hours Wednesday amid ominous signs the government is tightening its grip on the country less than four weeks before a presidential runoff election.

Morgan Tsvangirai, who returned 12 days ago to face President Robert Mugabe in the June 27 ballot, was taken with about 14 others from his Movement for Democratic Change to a police station in Lupane, north of Bulawayo, his spokesman said.

Spokesman George Sibotshiwe was quoted in a party statement as saying Tsvangirai was released after being charged with a public order offense that he described as "a spurious charge of attracting a large number of people."

Tsvangirai had to sign an official police caution before he was let go and one of his security vehicles was seized, the statement said.

Off The Wall

Indons told to plant trees before marrying

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) —Prospective newlyweds in an Indonesian province are being given one more promise to honor: planting trees to help slow the rapid deterioration of the country's forests.

As Indonesia marks World Environment Day on Thursday, husbands-and brides-to-be in Gorontalo, a rugged mountainous province on Sulawesi island, are being required to plant 10 seedlings supplied by the local government, said Hasyim Alidrus, head of the religious affairs office.

It is part of a nationwide "regreening" initiative launched by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the Bali Conference in Bali last November when million of trees were planted across the vast archipelago.

The program, critics say, is largely symbolic in a nation that is losing its forests at one of the fastest rates in the world due to illegal logging, mining, new oil palm plantations and slash-and-burn land clearing.

Conservationists say deforestation on Borneo island has claimed an area the size of some European countries and continues virtually unabated.

That has hardly dampened the enthusiasm of 27-year-old Khairul Baso and his fiancee, Andini, who received two 6-month-old teak trees along with palm, fruit and flower seedlings ahead of their wedding this weekend.

The couple is just one of nearly 900 that this year received trees from Gorontalo's religious affairs office, where they are required to register their marriage documents. Couples are required to plant the trees to receive their legal paperwork, Alidrus said, although it was unclear how the rule would be enforced.

Texas woman wins free funeral raffle

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas (AP)—Elaine Fulps is thrilled about the prize she won at a minor league baseball game. But she's hoping she doesn't have to collect on it anytime soon. Fulps, 60, won a $10,000 paid funeral at Tuesday night's Grand Prairie AirHogs game.

The prize won't expire until after Fulps does, said Ron Alexander, the sales manager at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens, which partnered with the team and Irving's Chapel of Roses Funeral Home to sponsor the event.

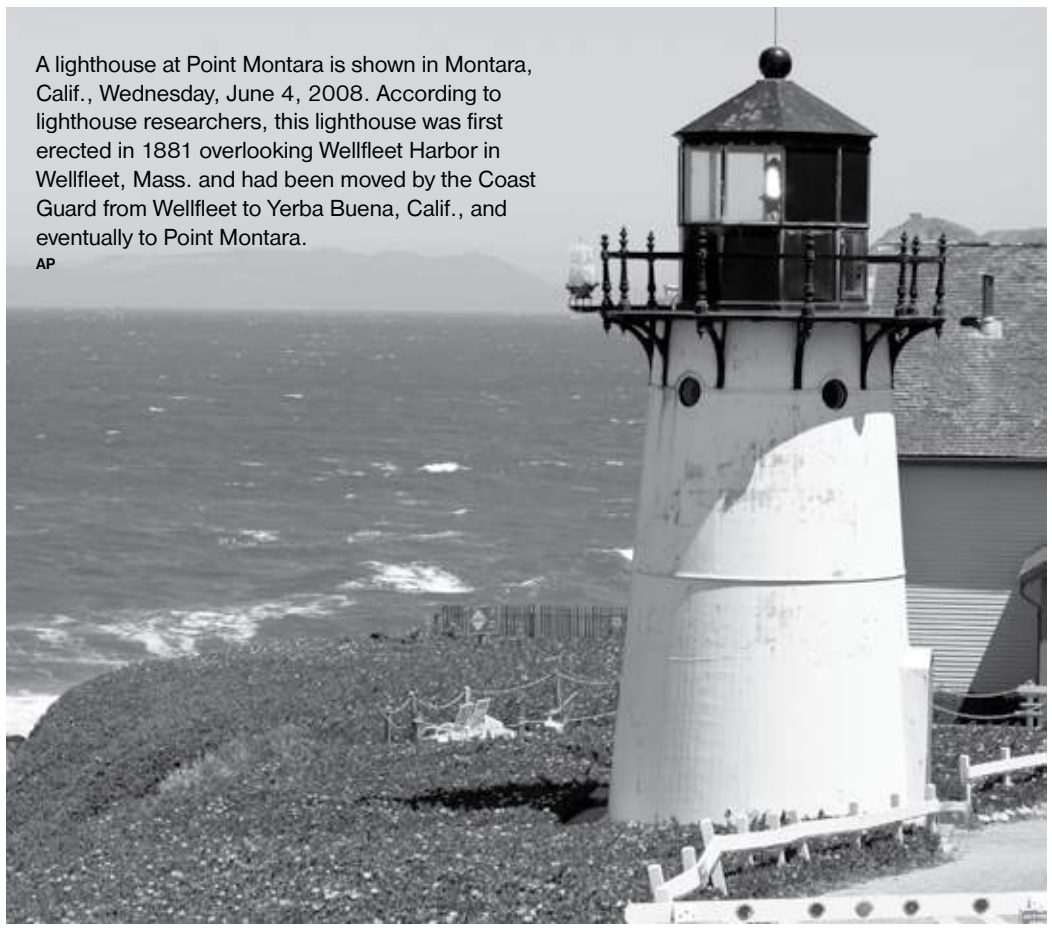
"I almost croaked many times," said Fulps, who was wearing a neck brace—the most recent effect of about 20 surgeries she's undergone for various medical problems. "God still has me around for a reason. To win a funeral."

Fans in this Dallas suburb were eager to join in the grim fun.

Some finalists for the prize arrived dressed in black or looking like death. The finalists participated in a pallbearer's race, a mummy wrap and a eulogy delivery.

Fulps, randomly chosen as the winner at night's end, said she'll choose a casket and plot as soon as she recovers.

"I'm going to pick a spot under a tree out of the Texas heat," she told The Dallas Morning News. "And let's hope it's a pet-free cemetery. I don't want to get watered on."



A lighthouse at Point Montara is shown in Montara, Calif., Wednesday, June 4, 2008. According to lighthouse researchers, this lighthouse was first erected in 1881 overlooking Wellfleet Harbor in Wellfleet, Mass. and had been moved by the Coast Guard from Wellfleet to Yerba Buena, Calif., and eventually to Point Montara.
AP

Missing Cape Cod lighthouse found in Calif.

WELLFLEET, Mass. (AP)—Local historians for decades thought the 30-foot tall lighthouse that once overlooked Wellfleet Harbor had been taken down and destroyed in 1925.

Turns out, it had just been moved to the California coast.

The fate of the cast-iron tower was uncovered last year by lighthouse researchers and reported by Colleen MacNeney in this month's edition of Lighthouse Digest.

MacNeney told the Cape Cod Times in Wednesday's edition it was her most exciting discovery.

Wellfleet historian Helen Purcell says the discovery of the lighthouse at Point Montara at the southern end of San Francisco Bay was a genuine shock.

MacNeney says she discovered correspondence that proved the lighthouse, first erected in 1881, had been moved by the Coast Guard from Wellfleet to Yerba Buena, Calif., and eventually to Point Montara.

There is no known documentation explaining how it was moved across the country, MacNeney said.

8-foot statue of Jesus stolen off Detroit crucifix

DETROIT (AP)—Thieves who stole an 8-foot statue of Jesus Christ off a crucifix in Detroit may have been seeking copper to sell as scrap. Problem is, it's made of plaster.

The Rev. Barry Randolph said Wednesday that the statue at the Church of the Messiah is green and looks like copper, one of several metals coveted by thieves because of soaring scrap prices.

Thieves have damaged copper pipes and stolen aluminum gutters at the church over the past few months, said Donya Ray-Gregg, a member of the congregation, which over the years has dwindled from about 350 members to just 50.

It's unclear when the statue was snatched. A parishioner noticed it missing Monday from its perch on the side of the church, 10 feet above the ground. A small piece of plaster was found nearby.

The church has made a public plea for help.

"It is so crazy," Randolph said. "It's been there for so long and was a symbol of hope to a lot of people in this neighborhood."

Justice of the peace sued over paddlings

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) —A family sued a justice of the peace Wednesday, complaining that he ordered a man to paddle his teenage stepdaughter in the courtroom and threatened to convict her of truancy if he didn't.

The lawsuit filed by Mary Vasquez and her husband, Daniel Zurita, described the paddle provided by Gustavo Garza, Cameron County justice of the peace, as fashioned from a thick piece of lumber.

"The word 'club' could be fairly used as a substitute for the word 'paddle' here as it appears to be something which may have been cut from a (2-by-4) piece of lumber," attorney Mark Sossi wrote in the family's petition.

"The paddles provided by the judge are of such heft and weight that an individual striking an animal with one might be reasonably reported for cruelty to an animal," the family said.

In a story for Thursday's editions of The Brownsville Herald, Garza declined to comment on whether he has people spanked in his courtroom. He also said he had not seen the lawsuit.

The lawsuit asks a state district court to stop the spankings and remove Garza from office.

The family alleges that Garza told Zurita to strike his 14-year-old stepdaughter repeatedly on the buttocks in open court. It says the judge told Zurita the girl would be fined $500 if she wasn't paddled.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Vigilante' gets revenge on metal shop thieves

VIENNA, Maine (AP)—The owner of a machine shop where thieves stole $3,000 worth of scrap steel, iron and aluminum wasn't going to let it happen again. After Saturday night's theft, Joseph Lord loaded his shotgun and laid low, expecting the thieves to return. They came back on Tuesday, in broad daylight. When Lord saw their 2008 F-250 pickup truck, he shot out its tires and windshield and blasted its radiator, Kennebec County Sheriff Randall Liberty said. The startled thieves took off on foot, but investigators quickly tracked down the truck's operator, who will be charged with theft, Liberty said. Charges are pending against an accomplice, the sheriff said. Liberty said he discourages the use of guns to protect property. In this case, Lord told investigators he wanted to disable the vehicle so the criminals couldn't escape. "I can understand the frustration that Mr. Lord must have been experiencing," Liberty said. But, he added, "We don't want to see anyone get hurt over property."

Oregon fishing town loses namesake tuna statue

CHARLESTON, Ore. (AP) —Sorry, Charlie. You're a crime victim. The blue, 8-foot wooden statue of a tuna stood for two decades at the end of a bridge, welcoming folks to the coastal fishing town of Charleston. Now the tuna, named Charlie, is missing. Because the chain holding the statue in place was cut, Charlie is presumed stolen. Mel Campbell of the local merchants association says Charlie was last seen wearing an orange hat and glasses, similar to StarKist's pitch-fish. She says the group has another tuna statue, a 12-footer at the information center. But Charlie was more popular, and, she says, "looked cute at the end of the bridge." The local sheriff's office has notified police departments to keep an eye out for Charlie.

Swallowed stolen gold bracelets back on display

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Police say a woman stole two 14-karat gold bracelets—by swallowing them. An employee at Hy & Mike's Pawn and Bail Bonds told police he saw the woman put the bracelets in her mouth May 27. Court documents say Salt Lake City investigators confirmed it by watching the surveillance video. The bracelets, valued around $2,000, have been recovered. Police spokesman Jeff Bedard says he doesn't know just how the jewelry was collected. Norma Porchas, 41, was charged with retail theft. She has an unlisted phone number and could not be reached for comment Wednesday. Porchas is scheduled to appear in court June 19. And the bracelets? They're back on display at the pawn shop.

Police: Funny fudge made with lavender, not pot

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP)—Indiana University police say brownies a girl gave to dorm workers didn't contain marijuana at all. The leafy substance mixed in was lavender. IU Police Capt. Jerry Minger said the 13-year-old girl came forward after the case was publicized to let officers know the brownies were safe. The fudge was given to workers at IU's Eigenmann Hall on May 23 and police were called after one of the employees took a bite and noticed a green, leafy substance inside. The girl gave some of the lavender to police for a field test, and Minger said it registered a "weak reaction" on a test for marijuana. The girl made the fudge for a school project, in which she had to make a Swedish food.

Homeless man accused of swindling 13 women

SOUDERTON, Pa. (AP)—A homeless man accused of duping 13 women by posing as a millionaire on an Internet dating service was arraigned Wednesday in this Philadelphia suburb. Paul Krueger, 50, used a laptop computer to meet the women on Millionairematch.com, prosecutors said. He is accused of stealing more than $100,000 from the women after convincing them he was a Grammy-nominated record mogul who needed investors for a new business venture that manufactured DVDs, CDs and other videos. He showed one victim false stock reports detailing the success of his nonexistent new business, according to court papers. Charges were filed in Souderton because that is where he told women to send him money; the address is the home of his ex-wife, authorities said. Authorities say Krueger used the money to fuel his gambling addiction.

Science & Technology

Study tracks cell phone users outside US

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Researchers secretly tracked the locations of 100,000 people outside the United States through their cell phone use and concluded that most people rarely stray more than a few miles from home.

The first-of-its-kind study by Northeastern University raises privacy and ethical questions for its monitoring methods, which would be illegal in the United States.

It also yielded somewhat surprising results that reveal how little people move around in their daily lives. Nearly three-quarters of those studied mainly stayed within a 20-mile-wide circle for half a year.

The scientists would not say where the study was done, only describing the location as an industrialized nation.

Researchers used cell phone towers to track individuals' locations whenever they made or received phone calls and text messages over six months. In a second set of records, researchers took another 206 cell phones that had tracking devices in them and got records for their locations every two hours over a week's time period.

The study was based on cell phone records from a private company, whose name also was not disclosed.

Study co-author Cesar Hidalgo, a physics researcher at Northeastern, said he and his colleagues didn't know the individual phone numbers because they were disguised into "ugly" 26-digit-and-letter codes.

That type of nonconsensual tracking would be illegal in the United States, according to Rob Kenny, a spokesman for the Federal Communications Commission. Consensual tracking, however, is legal and even marketed as a special feature by some U.S. cell phone providers.

The study, published Thursday in the journal Nature, opens up the field of human-tracking for science and calls attention to what experts said is an emerging issue of locational privacy.

"This is a new step for science," said study co-author Albert-Lazlo Barabasi, director of Northeastern's Center for Complex Network Research. "For the first time we have a chance to really objectively follow certain aspects of human behavior."

Barabasi said he spent nearly half his time on the study worrying about privacy issues. Researchers didn't know which phone numbers were involved. They were not able to say precisely where people were, just which nearby cell phone tower was relaying the calls, which could be a matter of blocks or miles. They started with 6 million phone numbers and chose the 100,000 at random to provide "an extra layer" of anonymity for the research subjects, he said.

AP

A man is using a cell phone near a cellular radio transmitter in Magdeburg, eastern Germany, Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

Barabasi said he did not check with any ethics panel. Hidalgo said they were not required to do so because the experiment involved physics, not biology. However, had they done so, they might have gotten an earful, suggested bioethicist Arthur Caplan at the University of Pennsylvania.

"There is plenty going on here that sets off ethical alarm bells about privacy and trustworthiness," Caplan said.

Studies done on normal behavior at public places is "fair game for researchers" as long as no one can figure out identities, Caplan said in an e-mail.

"So if I fight at a soccer match or walk through 30th Street train station in Philly, I can be studied," Caplan wrote. "But my cell phone is not public. My cell phone is personal. Tracking it and thus its owner is an active intrusion into personal privacy."

Paul Stephens, policy director at the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse in San Diego, said the nonconsensual part of the study raises the Big Brother issue.

"It certainly is a major concern for people who basically don't like to be tracked and shouldn't be tracked without their knowledge," Stephens said.

Study co-author Hidalgo said there is a difference between being a statistic - such as how many people buy a certain brand of computer - and a specific example. The people tracked in the study are more statistics than examples.

"In the wrong hands the data could be misused," Hidalgo said. "But in scientists' hands you're trying to look at broad patterns.... We're not trying to do evil things. We're trying to make the world a little better."

Knowing people's travel patterns can help design better transportation systems and give doctors guidance in fighting the spread of contagious diseases, he said.

The results also tell us something new about ourselves, including that we tend to go to the same places repeatedly, he said.

"Despite the fact that we think of ourselves as spontaneous and unpredictable ... we do have our patterns we move along and for the vast majority of people it's a short distance," Barabasi said.

The study found that nearly half of the people in the study pretty much keep to a circle little more than six miles wide and that 83 percent of the people tracked mostly stay within a 37-mile wide circle.

Wii Fit, tipping the scales on exercise

By MIKE MUSGROVE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

After all the good times we've had together, it's nice to know my Wii doesn't think I'm fat.

Last week, Nintendo launched an unusual product designed for use with its fast-selling game console. Called Wii Fit, the $90 package comes with a game disc and a sturdy, 10-pound platform that users stand on, shifting their weight from side to side to control their in-game characters. The device and its software can also weigh users and calculate body mass.

Nintendo's Wii system is famous for getting people off the couch to play its tennis and bowling games; now the company aims to introduce users to yoga moves, ab crunches and push-ups, all performed atop the new Wii Balance Board, as the platform is called.

Wii Fit has already proved popular in Japan, where it has sold 2 million units since its release last year. Design of the hardware and software was overseen by Shigeru Miyamoto, the famous Nintendo game designer behind many of the company's biggest hits, such as the Mario franchise.

Game companies have a long and mostly unsuccessful history of trying to tie physical activity to video games. The idea goes back at least 25 years, to the heyday of the Atari 2600 game console, which had a similar-in-spirit device called the Joyboard. In more recent years, some games designed for the PlayStation 2 used a special camera to try to "watch" users' movements as they did aerobics programs with the system.

One device on the way, from a company called iToys, aims to motivate kids to move their bodies more in the real world by offering rewards in the virtual world. As they play and move, a pedometer records points that can be redeemed in a virtual world when the device is plugged into a computer. The device, called ME2, is scheduled for release late this summer.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Nintendo's Wii system is famous for getting people off the couch to play its tennis and bowling games; now the company aims to introduce users to yoga, ab crunches and push-ups, all performed atop a balance board.

Ben Sawyer, a co-director of Games for Health, a regular conference where software developers discuss and show off game technology that improves health and health care, said there's a lot to like about Wii Fit.

He said he'd like to see school districts eventually adopt the system, in the same way that some school districts have successfully incorporated the popular Dance Dance Revolution games into exercise and weight-loss programs.

That's a long way off for Wii Fit, he observed. After all, even if price weren't an issue, Wiis are still notoriously hard to find. "The biggest strike against it is that there aren't enough Wiis," he said. "People still can't get one."

Cammie Dunaway, Nintendo of America's executive vice president of sales and marketing, said other game developers were already working on games and software that incorporate the Balance Board. She said the company was still trying to meet demand for the Wii, but she would not say when the device would be in ample supply.

IBM developing miniature pipes to cool down chips

BOSTON (AP)—Since a computer microprocessor is veined with electric circuitry, it might seem like a bad place to put water. But IBM Corp. researchers believe that sloshing water through hair-thin pipes inside chips will solve a vexing problem facing next-generation computers.

That problem is heat.

As chips get smaller and smaller, cramming more processing power into ever-tinier spaces, the heat thrown off by the miniature circuits becomes harder to manage. Cooling measures used now to avoid chip meltdowns, including "heat sinks" made from heat-absorbing materials, might not work on tinier scales.

In fact, in a future microprocessor design IBM is exploring - in which chips are stacked vertically to save space and enhance performance, rather than arrayed next to each other - the heat-to-volume ratio exceeds that of a nuclear reactor.

To address that, IBM researchers say they could pipe water in between chips that are sandwiched together. The system, which IBM planned to explain Thursday at a technical conference, uses pipes that are just 50 microns wide - 50 millionths of a meter. The tiny tubes are sealed to prevent leaks and electrical shorts.

Even these micro amounts of water can handle prodigious cooling chores, because water is much more efficient than air at absorbing heat. That is why some high-end computers long have used water cooling. The new trick here is that IBM expects to do it at the miniature scale, inside chips.

"It's never been applied this close to the heart of the matter," said analyst Richard Doherty of the Envisioneering Group.

Yogendra Joshi, an engineering professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, said aspects of IBM's approach already have been shown by other researchers. But he said the company deserves credit for trying to push the idea toward commercialization.

"There has been a great aversion to piping liquids through electronics," Joshi said. "That's understandable."

However, IBM's tiny pipes aren't out of the lab yet. They're at least five years from becoming available.

Life & Style

Saeki-Tolentino nuptials

Masami Saeki and Erma Tolentino were married in a Christian ceremony last Tuesday in front of friends and loved ones at the Saipan Grand Hotel chapel.

While both live and work in Japan, the couple decided to bless their union through a Christian ceremony presided by Pastor Roger Abe of the Saipan Community Church.

In attendance during the wedding were the bride's parents, Ernesto and Emely Tolentino. Tolentino's uncle and aunt, Totoy and Merlyn Del Rosario, served as main sponsors, while Sonny Tolentino and Maricon Tolentino were their best man and maid of honor, respectively.

Phil Del Rosario was the ring bearer with Angel Felice De Jesus acting as the flower girl. Secondary sponsors were Valissa and J.R. Del Rosario. Guests feted the newlyweds with a special lunch buffet at Saipan Grand Hotel's Aoi Restaurant following the wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Masami Saeki.

The bride's parents, Ernesto and Emely Tolentino, pose with the newlyweds.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Pastor Roger Abe presided over the wedding ceremony of Masami Saeki and Erma Tolentino.

Masami Saeki and Erma Tolentino exchanged wedding vows last Tuesday at the Saipan Grand Hotel chapel.

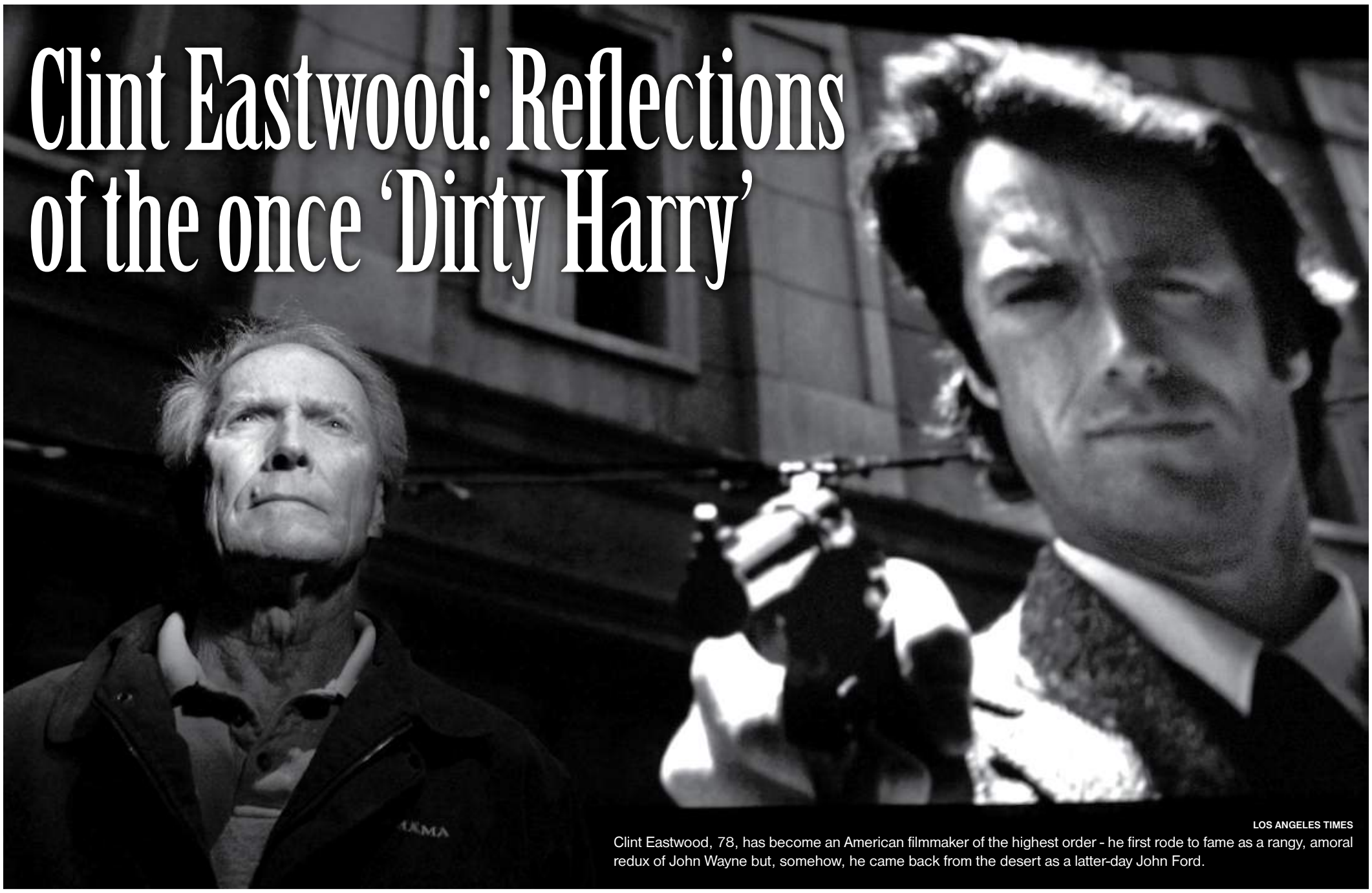
The entire entourage of Mr. and Mrs. Masami Saeki.

Main sponsors Totoy, right, and Merlyn Del Rosario flank the newlyweds.

Family and friends with the newlyweds.

Best man Sonny Tolentino, maid of honor Maricon Tolentino, ring bearer Phil Del Rosario, flower girl Angel Felice De Jesus, and secondary sponsors Valissa and J.R. Del Rosario with Mr. and Mrs. Masami Saeki.

Clint Eastwood: Reflections of the once 'Dirty Harry'



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Clint Eastwood, 78, has become an American filmmaker of the highest order - he first rode to fame as a rangy, amoral redux of John Wayne but, somehow, he came back from the desert as a latter-day John Ford.

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD–On a recent afternoon at the Warner Bros. lot, Clint Eastwood took a break from a long day in the editing bay and strolled over to a hushed screening room. There, his armed-and-dangerous past was waiting for him, and the filmmaker winced when he looked it in the eye.

"Who's that young fella?" he asked, a flicker of a smile crossing his famously craggy face. Up on the screen was Eastwood, circa 1971, staring down the barrel of a huge gun with an expression of cruel calmness. The role was, of course, Harry Callahan, the San Francisco cop with good aim and bad attitude, who opened fire in "Dirty Harry," a movie that ushered in the modern American cinema of vengeance. He kept reloading for four sequels over 17 years, amassing a body count that began in the Nixon era and lasted into the twilight of the Reagan years.

Eastwood, who turned 78 on Saturday, has become an American filmmaker of the highest order—he first rode to fame as a rangy, amoral redux of John Wayne but, somehow, came back from the desert as a latter-day John Ford. With that career trajectory, it wouldn't be surprising if Eastwood turned his back on Callahan, whose darkly whispered one-liners ("... You've got to ask yourself one question: `Do I feel lucky?' Well, do ya, punk?" "Go ahead, make my day") were long ago drained of any real danger by stand-up comics, politicians and bumper stickers. It's easy to imagine Eastwood the "auteur" treating the character like a bad 1970s fashion choice.

Instead, Eastwood is reconnecting with the surly old gun nut. Warner Home Video on Tuesday will release a lavish new boxed set of all five "Dirty Harry" movies (the $75 DVD set includes 1973's "Magnum Force," 1976's "The Enforcer," 1983's "Sudden Impact" and 1988's "The Dead Pool") that comes with a fake police badge tucked inside an eel-skin pouch. There's also a letter to fans penned by Eastwood, who has been busy lately putting finishing touches on his latest directorial project, "Changeling," and presenting it at the Cannes Film Festival (it hits U.S. theaters in November).

Sitting in the screening room at Warners, Eastwood explained that the role of Callahan was "a real turning point" for him—and American popular culture. There's also a sentimental aura around the first film: It was directed by the late Don Siegel, Eastwood's mentor and friend, and brought the actor back to his hometown of San Francisco. He also knows that, for good or bad, in the minds of movie fans he forever will carry Callahan's .44 Magnum.

"People are disappointed when they walk up to me and ask to see the gun and I tell them that, well, I don't really carry guns," he said with a chuckle. Eastwood was wearing sneakers and the relaxed posture of someone with complete confidence—he might scowl on-screen, but in person he is more like the serene character he played in "The Bridges of Madison County."

"All the movies you make, all these roles you take, and there are certain ones that people really hold on to. Harry is the one I hear about the most from the people on the street."

The actor already was a screen tough guy thanks to the spaghetti westerns he made with Sergio Leone and his role as a maverick cop in Siegel's "Coogan's Bluff." But something encoded in "Dirty Harry" set it apart and painted a target on it.

Andy Robinson, who played the Scorpio killer in "Dirty Harry," said the movie cut through because of its grim hero and bundled appeal. "It was police thriller, a cowboy western and a horror film, it was all of them yoked together," Robinson said. "And because of the times it was released in, it became the film that people argued about. Is it fascist? Is it ripe with irony? After that movie I was turned away at auditions for quite a while. A lot of people in Hollywood were angry."

Although Pauline Kael of the New Yorker praised the film's styling as "trim, brutal and exciting," she also called it "a remarkably single-minded attack on liberal values, with each prejudicial detail in place—a kind of hard-hat `The Fountainhead.'" Critic Roger Ebert wrote, "The movie's moral position is fascist. No doubt about it."

The reception was more enthusiastic on Main Street. The Warner Bros. franchise would gross $228 million in U.S. theatrical release—big box office for the era—and become a staple on TV and at video stores. "Clint should have been typecast forever," Robinson said. "But he is bigger than Dirty Harry, which is saying a lot."

Still, young men (and, now, older men) approach Eastwood and recite whole monologues from the movies or, even stranger, they grin and ask the graying actor to call them obscene names and threaten them. "In the early days, I would tell these young fellas, `That's just a movie, pal.' After a while, I just gave it to them. It made everybody happy. Sometimes it even made me happy. Sometimes I even meant it ..." Hollywood was in a wild churn in the late 1960s. In "Easy Rider" and "Bonnie and Clyde," the antiheroes were young, reckless and ready to break the laws of a hypocritical nation. The success of those films opened the door to a scruffy independent spirit that, politically, veered left. To many observers, "Dirty Harry" felt like a rebuttal. (It could have been worse—"Dead Right" was an early title by screenwriters Harry Julian Fink, R.M. Fink and Dean Riesner.)

Siegel had been working in Hollywood since the 1930s (he put together the montage that opened "Casablanca") and by the 1960s had found a flair for tough-guy cinema with Lee Marvin in "The Killers," Steve McQueen in "Hell Is for Heroes" and Eastwood in "Coogan's Bluff." Siegel chose to open "Dirty Harry" with a reverential shot of a marble memorial listing all the San Francisco police officers who had been killed in the line of duty. No charming outlaws were being celebrated in this film. "At the time in the press, there was a lot of attention to the rights of the accused, and that's not bad or wrong, but nobody thought too much about the rights of the public or the rights of the victim, that's not what the attention was on," Eastwood said. "All of a sudden here was a picture about the rights of all the victims, and I think it really resonated with people who were frustrated."

Eastwood has been a registered Republican since the 1950s but describes himself as a libertarian. He was appointed to an arts council by President Nixon in the 1970s, elected mayor of the scenic Northern California town of Carmel in the 1980s and was appointed to the California parks commission (and then fired from it) by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. None of this, he says, has anything to do with Callahan.

"There was a lot made about the politics of the film, and what my politics were—imagined and real. A lot of people thought I was a renegade. Everyone drew these things into it. Maybe they were there. Maybe they were reading stuff into it that wasn't there. It's a role. That's the fun of being an actor, being something you weren't."

People ask him to autograph rifles, but Eastwood is no Charlton Heston. A vegan, he was distressed to hear Hillary Rodham Clinton boast recently about bagging a bird. "I was thinking: `The poor duck, what the hell did she do that for?' I don't go for hunting. I just don't like killing creatures. Unless they're trying to kill me. Then that would be fine."

Eastwood said that he has a deep respect for due process and Miranda rights.

See CLINT on Next Page

Michelle Obama to guest on 'The View'

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Obama will be a guest host on "The View" on June 18. The popular ABC daytime talk show had invited her to be a guest this month, but she sent back word that she would like to be a host like Cindy McCain did in April, said Bill Geddie, the show's executive producer.

"Equal time - that's hard to argue with," he said Wednesday.

Being a guest host will allow Michelle Obama to help interview guests and participate in the opening "hot topics," or banter about what's in the news that day. It offers the chance for someone to show a more complete personality than just sitting for an interview and talking about themselves, Geddie said.

Michelle Obama was injected into the campaign when the Tennessee Republican Party posted an online video questioning her patriotism. That prompted her husband, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, to say political opponents should lay off his wife.

When Cindy McCain was guest host in April, comic Craig Ferguson was the lead guest. No guests have been booked for Michelle Obama's show yet.

Barack Obama has appeared twice on "The View," once before his candidacy for president. Republican John McCain has been on several times. Geddie said he expected the candidates to seek out a chance to reach "The View" audience during the campaign and be questioned about what is going on.

"We treat the wives differently than the candidates," Geddie said. "We're tougher on the candidates than we are on the wives. We're trying to get to know them."

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill. celebrates after a election night rally with his wife Michelle in St Paul, Minn. Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

Country singer Jones to get stolen guitar back

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -- A guitar stolen from country star George Jones 46 years ago in Texas is being returned to him by a man who says he bought it and tried repeatedly to give it back.

The acoustic Martin-000 is being returned to him by Larry Berry of Chandler, Texas, who said he bought it for $10 from two boys in his Fort Worth, Texas, apartment complex in 1962.

Berry said Wednesday he's been trying to reach Jones since the 1960s to return it, and finally got through this year.

"George is stunned, really happy," said Susan Nadler, a spokeswoman for the singer.

She and Berry said Jones is to get the instrument back June 14 when he performs in Bossier City, La., and Berry attends the show and makes the presentation.

"It'll be a big relief," Berry, a retired oil man, said by telephone. "I've written letters for years and called recording studios trying to find him. You can't believe how hard it's been."

The guitar was stolen from a Fort Worth nightclub where Jones was performing in 1962. Berry said the two boys asked $25 for it, but he offered $10 and they accepted. He quoted the youths as telling him later that it had been stolen.

The guitar's strap had Jones' name on it with streaks of "White Lightning," one of his hit songs.

Berry said he gave it to his father for about seven months, then kept it himself the rest of the years while trying to track down the singer.

"It's in excellent shape," he said.

Finally, Berry enlisted the help of Tom Perryman of Tyler, Texas, a veteran broadcaster who helped him reach Jones in Nashville in February.

"He'll be very happy to get it back," Nadler said. "It was one of his first guitars."

10th Lauper album bops onto charts; Usher is No. 1

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Believe it or not, it will be 25 years ago this December that Cyndi Lauper burst onto the pop scene with the aptly titled "She's So Unusual." This week she's back on the album charts with her 10th studio collection, "Bring Ya to the Brink," which finds her once again playing the saucy music chameleon.

"Brink" was recorded overseas with European dance heroes such as Basement Jaxx, Dragonette and Kleerup. The singer said it was yet another stamp in her career passport.

"I was giggling to myself one day on the way to Kent, England, to write with Digital Dog," the 54-year-old said. "I was thinking how the English not only drive on the other side of the road, but they sing on the other side of the beat."

Lauper is on the True Colors Tour, which also features the B-52s and Regina Spektor. Lauper's album debuted Wednesday at No. 41 (12,000 copies sold) on the latest Nielsen SoundScan chart.

Usher's "Here I Stand" debuted at No. 1 with 433,000 copies sold, the second strongest single-week total of 2008, trailing only Mariah Carey's "E=MC2" and its mark of 463,000 copies.

There are only two other debuts in the Top 40, and both involve the venerable Al Green. His album "Lay It Down" opens at No. 9 (34,000 copies sold), and he has a duet with Joss Stone on the soundtrack to "Sex and the City" at No. 2 (66,000 copies).

AP

Cyndi Lauper performs during a stop on the True Colors Tour at Radio City Music Hall Tuesday, June 3, 2008 in New York.

CLINT

From Page 31

But he added that there's a benefit to feeding the fantasies of frustrated cops. "It's gotten me out of a lot of speeding tickets through the years."

Inspector Harry Callahan's nickname isn't a reference to corruption—it's a nod to Callahan's willingness to get his hands dirty, be it an illegal search or a bit of torture in times of duress. None of this is jolting now, not after "The Shield" and "NYPD Blue," "Training Day" and "L.A. Confidential" and video games in which Callahan, with his tie and jacket, would be the most judicious cop on the screen.

But it was "Dirty Harry" that propelled the American urban vengeance film as a genre. The "Death Wish" franchise followed, and Eastwood was offered the lead as a gentle architect pushed to violence by hate and grief. He turned it down—his screen persona was too defined as a scarred warrior—and suggested the professorial Gregory Peck. The part went instead to the glowering Charles Bronson. "Sometimes," Eastwood said, "this business isn't about doing the thing that makes sense."

The genre is still doing well. There's a steady parade of straight-to-DVD productions that mimic the blood splatter of "Dirty Harry," but there's more ambitious fare as well. Most recently, there was Neil Jordan's "The Brave One," with Jodie Foster, of all people, confronting street punks with righteous sneers and gun-muzzle flare. Nicolas Cage is set to star next year in a Werner Herzog remake of "Bad Lieutenant," a Dirty Harry cop taken to his most filthy extremes.

A lot of people imitate Eastwood's Dirty Harry—his personal favorite is Jim Carrey, who also happened to have one of his early movie roles in "The Dead Pool"—but hearing the man himself recite the "Feel lucky?" speech is quite thrilling. He remembers every word, even though he said the last time he watched the film was a decade ago on laser disc.

Even better is listening to Eastwood run through a mock pitch of "Dirty Harry VI": "Harry is retired. He's standing in a stream, fly-fishing. He gets tired of using the pole—and BA-BOOM! Or Harry is retired and he chases bad guys with his walker? Maybe he owns a tavern. These guys come in and they won't pay their tab, so Harry reaches below the bar. Hey, guys, the next shot's on me ..."

Still, Rambo, Rocky and Indiana Jones have all returned. "Yeah, people ask me all the time. I guess if there was a truly great script or something, but it's hard enough to find good scripts any time, let alone one you have to bend to make it fit some franchise. The movies that interest me now take me to new places."

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Ticket sale Saturday for Madonna in Traverse City

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—Tickets go on sale Saturday for Madonna's appearance at the Traverse City Film Festival. But don't bother trying to order them by phone or online. They'll be available only at the State Theatre in downtown Traverse City, where the pop star will show her new film, "I Am Because We Are," on Aug. 2. Festival founder Michael Moore has said Madonna will personally introduce the documentary, which describes the plight of impoverished people in the African nation of Malawi. Madonna and Moore are friends and Michigan natives. The theater seats about 540 people. Tickets cost $25 each. Moore said Wednesday that all the money from the ticket sale will go to Madonna's Raising Malawi Foundation.

Person with SAG says union signs more waiver deals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A person with the Screen Actors Guild says the union has signed more than 300 waiver deals allowing members to work on films by independent producers even if actors strike. The person, who was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity, says the films include "Edge of Darkness" starring Mel Gibson. The contracts are offered to independent producers with no ties to the major Hollywood studios involved in ongoing labor talks. The current contract expires on June 30.

Dennis Farina charged in LA airport gun incident

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dennis Farina has been charged with illegally having a gun in his luggage at Los Angeles International Airport. The city attorney's office on Wednesday charged the "Law & Order" actor with three misdemeanor counts involving possession of a concealed and loaded weapon. The charges carry a combined maximum sentence of 2 1/2 years in jail and $3,000 in fines. Farina was arrested three weeks ago when a .22-caliber handgun was found in his carry-on luggage. He publicly apologized and told police he forgot the weapon was there. County prosecutors declined to charge Farina with felonies and referred the case to city prosecutors.

Dudamel and L.A. Philharmonic top charts

Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic topped the June 1 Billboard classical music chart with their Deutsche Grammophon Concerts release of Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique." This was the first digital-only release to reach that spot since the trade publication changed its criteria May 25 to allow such recordings chart status, although previous DG Concerts releases have sold enough copies to rank No. 1. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

George Benson ranked among jazz masters

Vocalist and guitarist George Benson was among the recipients named Tuesday for the National Endowment of the Arts' 2009 Jazz Masters Award. Also chosen for the $25,000 award, to be presented in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 17, were drummer Jimmy Cobb, saxophonist Lee Konitz, trumpet player Snooky Young, harmonica and guitar player Toots Thielemans and recording engineer Rudy Van Gelder. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Ashanti returns to the top of the charts

Ashanti has always been a stealth superstar, the kind who rolls out hits without anyone noticing. "The Declaration" (The Inc./Universal Motown) may blow her cover, though. The single "The Way That I Love You" has already returned her to the top of the R&B charts, but there's way more where that came from. Jermaine Dupri helps out on the playful "Good Good," while Akon and Nelly bring the bounce to "Body On Me," and Robin Thicke and Pharrell heat up the sultry "Things You Make Me Do." Her "Declaration" shows that not only does she hold her own with any producer, but she molds them to her vision of what current R&B should be. Ashanti leaves her comfort zone to collaborate with superstar producers. ***(Newsday)***

Ed McMahon's home in danger of foreclosure

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For years, Ed McMahon promised wealth, comfort and happiness as a pitchman for the American Family Publishers' sweepstakes. Now, he could use some of that cash himself.

The former sidekick to Johnny Carson on the "Tonight" show is in danger of losing his multimillion-dollar Beverly Hills home to foreclosure. Documents show that McMahon is nearly $644,000 behind in payments on a $4.8 million mortgage loan he got in 2005. Countrywide Home Loans Inc. filed the notice of default on Feb. 28, with the amount owed to "increase until your account becomes current," according to documents obtained by Celebtv.com.

As of Wednesday afternoon, McMahon's Mediterranean-styled house was still in the process of foreclosure; the bank hasn't taken it over yet and no trustee sale date has been set. McMahon and his wife, Pamela, are having "very fruitful discussions" with the lender to resolve the problem, spokesman Howard Bragman said Wednesday.

Bragman declined to give specifics about McMahon's finances, but said the 85-year-old television personality has been unable to work since he broke his neck 18 months ago. He did say that the current problems are unrelated to a toxic mold that spread through the structure, sickened McMahon and his wife, and led to the death of their dog in 2001. He received a $7.2 million settlement from that case.

The former "Star Search" host has found himself in the same situation so many homeowners have recently, said Daren Blomquist, spokesman for RealtyTrac, which follows foreclosure filings. He found that McMahon has taken out several loans on the house over the past few years, including a $300,000 home equity line of credit the same day he took out the $4.8 million loan in November 2005.

"You're using your house as a piggy bank because there's so much equity—at least back in 2005—so you're able to take money out of it and use that for just spending in any way you see fit," Blomquist said. "But the problem with that in the long term is that with the housing in this market, you don't see it continue to go up in property value. Now, you see it going down in many areas ... and you still have to pay your mortgage payments. You don't have the option to take more cash out of the house."

Bragman said there was "a certain irony" in the fact that McMahon has always tried to connect with average Americans, and now he's experiencing some of their same problems.

"The part that really is touching, as Ed has said to me, is that, `I know I'm not alone in this. There's a lot of working-class Americans who are getting caught up in this situation, and my heart goes out to them.'"

He first bought the six-bedroom, five-bathroom, 7,000-square-foot house in January 1990; the purchase price wasn't mentioned in court documents. It's been on the market for the past two years and is listed at $6.25 million. The mansion is in a gated hilltop section off Mulholland Drive called The Summit, the same exclusive area where Britney Spears lives.

Photos of the estate, posted on the Hilton & Hyland realty Web site, show an imposing stone facade with a large driveway, a sweeping staircase and a large pool in the back. The listing boasts, "The master suite, with his and hers baths and closets, overlooks the yard and sweeping canyon."

McMahon is the latest celebrity to be hit by Southern California's foreclosure crisis. In May, former baseball star and "Juiced" author Jose Canseco had his property foreclosed in the San Fernando Valley. Canseco said then that he walked away from his $2.5 million, 7,300-square-foot home in suburban Encino because it didn't make sense to continue making payments.

Bragman said McMahon and his wife still live in their home and plan to remain there as long as possible: "He's a pretty proud man. I don't see him calling people and saying, 'Send money.' We're not going to do a telethon for Ed."

AP

Ed McMahon, right, and Pamela McMahon arrive at the premiere of "The Simpsons Movie" in Los Angeles on Tuesday, July 24, 2007.

Women gather for 'Fearless' dinner

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a good time to be a woman in Hollywood.

Days after "Sex and the City" trumped Indiana Jones at the box office, actresses, screenwriters and other Hollywood insiders gathered Tuesday to talk shop and toast their collective success at Cosmopolitan magazine's annual "Fun Fearless Females" dinner.

"Ugly Betty" star Becki Newton swapped business tips with "Legally Blonde" co-writer Kirsten Smith. Amanda Bynes shared stories with Cosmopolitan editor Kate White. Publicists and studio execs traded tales of the business.

The general consensus: the more women band together in Hollywood, the more successful they become.

"You've got 'Sex and the City,' the Pussycat Dolls, the Cheetah Girls, the 'House Bunny' girls—there's these groups of girls, arms linked, saying 'All right, there's strength in numbers, let's go forward together,'" said Smith, who has co-written other female-centric flicks including "She's the Man" and "10 Things I Hate About You."

The road to off-camera success was paved by women such as Salma Hayek, said actress Zoe Saldana.

"As soon as it was proven that she could put (people) in seats, she said, 'I'm going to start my own production company. I'm going to go into the studio and tell them the way it is and I'm going to produce 'Frida,' '" Zaldana said.

AP

In this March 6, 2008, file photo, Becki Newton arrives at the "Hollywood Glam with Rebecca Romijn" party at the bebe store in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Such examples give women in Hollywood today the confidence to reach new levels in business, White said.

"You don't get the sense that they're intimidated by anything or that they feel they need a man to show them the way," she said, adding that women are crafting their own careers and "not waiting for anyone" to tell them what to do.

"You just feel that's going on all over," she said. "There's just so much control, and you feel that's where women are in society, too."

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We, the family of the late

Lucrecia Leonisa Quitugua

would like to invite all our family and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first Anniversary of our beloved mother, daughter, aunt, and sister unto eternal life.

Nightly Rosary will be offered beginning Saturday, June 07, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. at the family residence of Mr. & Mrs. Vicente Dela Cruz in San Jose Village. On the last day, Sunday, June 15, 2008, Eucharistic Mass Celebration will be at 8:00 a.m. at San Jose Church, Tinian and evening Rosary at 8:00 p.m. will be said at the family residence.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Mr. & Mrs. Vicente M. Dela Cruz & Family

First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

†MICHIYO NAKANISHI MANALILI

invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Death Anniversary of our beloved's passing into eternal life.

Mass will be celebrated daily at Kristo Rai Church beginning Tuesday, June 10 through Wednesday, June 18 at 6:00 a.m.

On the last day, Wednesday, June 18, 2008, we invite all our relatives and friends to join us for breakfast following the 6:00 a.m. Mass at the Kristo Rai Social Hall.

Your presence and prayers during the Daily Masses are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Maraming Salamat Po, Domo Arigato, and Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

Jorge M. Manalili and Family

Mom lived her life for love of friends and family,
Neither asking for nor wanting in return.
Her days became a sunlit homily,
With others' joy, her joy and main concern.
When we were ill, she also became sick;
When we were cut, she, too, began to bleed.
Of our oil lamp she was the wick,
Drawing her bright flame from our need.
Some say that such behavior's out of date:
That self-fulfillment is the way to grace.
But Mom, without much choice, then chose her fate,
Finding greater truth in an embrace.
She lives on in the sparkle in our eyes:
Laughing, quiet, gentle, loving, wise.

Jolie confidants: 'ET' knew twins source fake

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—"Entertainment Tonight" aired a story about the birth of Angelina Jolie's twins despite being repeatedly told beforehand that the report was based on information from someone impersonating Jolie's assistant, according to documents and two people with knowledge of the exchange.

The celebrity newsmagazine denied Wednesday that it knew about an impostor before the broadcast. The identity of the impostor remained unknown.

On Friday morning, the show posted a story on its Web site and sent an e-mail alert to media outlets saying it had confirmed the birth of Jolie's twins. The Associated Press picked up the report.

"Entertainment Tonight" did not name its source at the time. It later revealed that the report was based on e-mails from someone it thought was Jolie assistant Holly Goline.

Shortly after the story was posted but several hours before the broadcast aired, Goline told "Entertainment Tonight" that she was not the person with whom they had been corresponding, a person with direct knowledge of the conversation told The Associated Press. That account was confirmed by another person close to Jolie.

"'Entertainment Tonight' was told before the broadcast that their information came from an impostor," said the second person. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

The people said there were several conversations Friday, by e-mail, text message and telephone, between Goline and "Entertainment Tonight." Meanwhile, the story was quickly challenged by several other celebrity news outlets.

The TV show stood by its story Friday night, with host Mary Hart saying on the air, "Just this morning, a source who says she was inside the delivery room tells us yes, the babies were born and yes, mother and babies are fine."

Later that night, the manager of Jolie's partner, Brad Pitt, told AP that the babies had not been born.

The show said in a statement Wednesday that it first learned of an impostor from a letter from Jolie's attorney Monday—three days after the broadcast.

"'Entertainment Tonight' takes this very seriously and is, of course, concerned that the show may have been victimized by someone allegedly posing as a member of Ms. Jolie's team," the statement said. "We are actively investigating the matter and are reaching out to law enforcement agencies."

The show has not mentioned the story on the air since the initial report, and the story has been deleted from its Web site.

The 27-year-old program is the top-rated entertainment newsmagazine on television, with an average nightly audience of 6.6 million viewers, more than double any competitors. The twins, who Jolie says are due in August, are one of the biggest stories of the year in celebrity journalism, with their first photographs expected to fetch at least $10 million. (The first pictures of Shiloh Jolie-Pitt reportedly fetched a $4 million donation to charity from People magazine.)

The mystery of who was sending the e-mail fit perfectly into the world of celebrity gossip, in which rumor and thirdhand sources coalesce into "facts" at the speed of the Internet. Even before the "Entertainment Tonight" report, there were international rumors of the twins' birth, possibly started by an OK! magazine story that did not report the babies were born, but speculated on possible names.

According to an "ET" executive, the report of the twins' birth began with Sharlette Hambrick, an "ET" producer. Hambrick told the show that she had obtained a BlackBerry e-mail address for Goline from a contact at CNN, according to the executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

According to e-mails provided to AP by the show, Hambrick sent a message to the BlackBerry address asking for confirmation of "reports swirling" that Jolie had given birth.

The reply came back: "Yes she did. I was actually in the room with her. They are doing fine and so is mom."

Goline has never had a BlackBerry e-mail account, one of the people with knowledge of the exchange said. Hambrick referred a call from The Associated Press to the show's public relations representative.

Shortly after "Entertainment Tonight" posted the story, Hambrick called the real Goline seeking more details, and Goline told her verbally and through text messages that Hambrick had been dealing with an impostor, the people with knowledge of the exchange said.

E-mails obtained by AP show that Hambrick sent a message to Goline's real e-mail address showing the exchange with the impostor, asking "Are you saying this is now not your e-mail address? That you did not send me these e-mails?"

Goline responded: "This is not my e-mail."

AP

In this May 15, 2008 photo, actress Angelina Jolie arrives at the photo call for the film "Kung Fu Panda" with her assistant Holly Goline at the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

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The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:10 7:10 10:05
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:10
Mon - Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:10
Peter Dinklage, Liam Neeson
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG
Synopsis
One year later, the Kings and Queens of Narnia find themselves back in that faraway wondrous realm, only to discover that more than 1,300 years have passed in Narnian time. During their absence, the Golden Age of Narnia has become extinct and Narnia has been conquered by the Telmarines and is now under the control of the evil King Miraz, who rules the land without mercy. The four children will soon meet a curious new character: Narnia's rightful heir to the throne, the young Prince Caspian, who has been forced into hiding, as his uncle Miraz plots to kill him in order to place his own newborn son on the throne.

Kung Fu Panda
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:20 7:30 9:30
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:30
Mon - Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:30
Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

You Don't Mess with the Zohan
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:30 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:05
Mon - Thurs 1:25 4:30 7:05
Adam Sandler, Rob Schneider
Action, Comedy • Rated PG-13

★ ★ ★

Sex and The City
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:00
Mon - Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:00
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
Comedy, Romance • Rated R
Synopsis
Set in the desert Southwest in 1957—at the height of the Cold War—ndy and his sidekick Mac have barely escaped a close scrape with nefarious Soviet agents on a remote airfield. Now, Professor Jones has returned home to Marshall College—only to find things have gone from bad to worse. His close friend and dean of the college explains that Indy's recent activities have made him the object of suspicion, and that the government has put pressure on the university to fire him.

Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:15
Mon - Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:15
Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

What Happens in Vegas
Fri and Sat @ 4:05 @ 9:50
Sunday @ 4:05 @
Mon - Thurs @ 4:05 @
Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

Forbidden Kingdom
Fri and Sat 1:10 @ 7:20 @
Sunday 1:10 @ 7:20
Mon - Thurs 1:10 @ 7:20
Jet Li, Jackie Chan
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

Iron Man
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:25
Mon - Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:25
Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

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Photographer accused of stalking younger Spears

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—A celebrity photographer accused of stalking Jamie Lynn Spears and her fiance in a small Mississippi town has been arrested.

Edwin W. Merino, 30, of Los Angeles, posted bond Tuesday. He is scheduled to appear in court next week.

Spears

Authorities in Liberty, a small town in southwest Mississippi near the Louisiana border, said Merino wouldn't leave the pregnant Spears and her fiance, Casey Aldridge, alone.

Merino denied the accusations in a phone interview Wednesday with The Associated Press. He said that he was about 200 feet away from the couple using a long lens when he was arrested at a gas station.

The younger Spears and Aldridge have been the subject of intense attention since she announced her pregnancy in December. She said then she was 12 weeks along, which would make the 17-year-old due any time.

Merino said he had little luck taking pictures of the couple and was preparing to leave the area.

"I've seen the young man Casey in pictures," Merino said. "I haven't worked on them myself. The first time I got a good look at him was in court."

Spears' family representatives did not immediately return messages Wednesday.

Merino has worked as a celebrity photographer for five years. He was one of the paparazzi who snared pictures of Jamie Lynn Spears' older sister, Britney, without underwear.

Merino said he was the only photographer following Spears during most of his four days in the Liberty area.

"I just think since I was the only one there, it was just easier for them to single me out," Merino said.

Merino's arrest was first reported by the McComb Enterprise-Journal.

Merino said he didn't spend any significant time in jail. A deputy drove him to three automated teller machines and he got the $1,143 he needed to be released.

In the end, Merino said the trip was a waste.

"The one picture I got was kind of by luck," he said. "I got lucky when I saw them at Wal-Mart when I was buying deodorant."

Grammer

Kelsey Grammer out of hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The publicist for Kelsey Grammer says the actor has returned home from the hospital, four days after suffering a mild heart attack.

Stan Rosenfield said Thursday that the "Cheers" and "Frasier" star is resting comfortably at his home in Kona on Hawaii's big island. He says Grammer thanks those who called and wrote expressing concern.

Grammer was paddle-boating with his wife, Camilla, on Saturday when he experienced symptoms and was taken to a Kona hospital. Doctors determined the 53-year-old actor had suffered a heart attack that Rosenfield described as "mild."

Rosenfield says he doesn't know if Grammer has a history of heart trouble.

Takei, partner plan to wed in Sept.

WASHINGTON (AP)—George Takei, best known for playing Sulu on "Star Trek," will never forget the first time he saw Brad Altman, the man he plans to marry, more than two decades ago.

They were working out in a running club and he couldn't take his eyes off Altman, who had a "lean, tightly muscled" body, the 71-year-old actor told AP Radio in an interview.

Takei said he asked Altman to help him train for a marathon, they fell in love, and now they've been living together for 21 years.

Altman said he proposed by getting down on one knee in their kitchen while Takei was eating a sandwich after seeing on TV that the California Supreme Court had legalized same-sex marriage. It surprised Takei, who thought he would be the one who popped the question.

They bought each other turquoise and silver wedding rings.

Takei and Altman plan to marry Sept. 14 in the Democracy Forum at the Japanese National Museum in Los Angeles.

Walter Koenig, who played Chekov in "Star Trek," will be the best man and Nichelle Nichols, who played Uhura, will be the matron of honor. Castmate Leonard Nimoy will be among the 200 guests, but probably not William Shatner. Takei has said Shatner didn't treat him and most of the cast very well.

Takei, who had a recurring role on NBC's "Heroes" last year, and Altman plan to honeymoon for a month in South America.

As for what they'll wear on their big day, Altman said they'll both walk down the aisle in white tuxedoes, which seemed to catch Takei off-guard.

"Well, now that you've announced it on the air, I guess it's settled," he said.

AP

In this Nov. 9, 2007 file photo originally provided by the Lesbian & Gay Lawyers Association, actor George Takei, left, and his partner of 20 years, Brad Altman, attend the Lesbian & Gay Lawyers Association Awards dinner in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles.

Rascal Flatts in Hannah Montana movie

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The country group Rascal Flatts will appear and perform in the upcoming Hannah Montana movie.

A spokeswoman for the group's Lyric Street Records made the announcement Wednesday. No additional details were available about the band's appearance in "Hannah Montana: The Movie."

The movie, starring Miley Cyrus and her father, Billy Ray Cyrus, is filming in their home state of Tennessee. It's scheduled for release in theaters in 2009.

Rascal Flatts - Gary LeVox, Jay DeMarcus and Joe Don Rooney—are one of country's top acts. Their hits include "Take Me There," "What Hurts the Most," and "Bless the Broken Road."

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
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Q: Can you give me some information about Shirley Temple? —Harvey F., Cabot, Ark.

A: Sure thing, Harvey. Shirley Temple Black, whose husband, Charles Black, passed away in 2005, turned 80 on April 23. She is the quintessential example of a child actor success story, starring in dozens of movies in the 1930s and '40s.

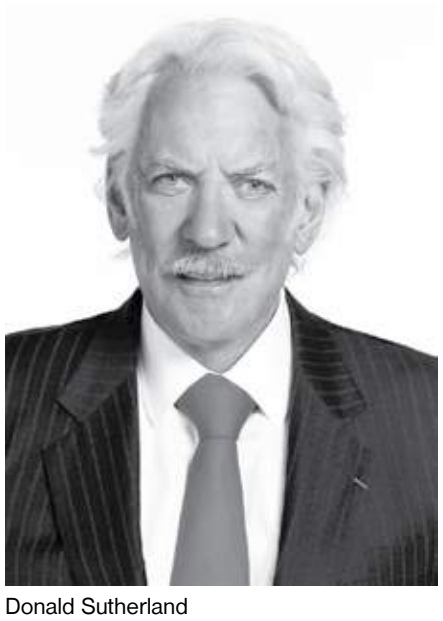
In the 1970s, she became politically active. President Nixon appointed Shirley the U.S. ambassador to Ghana from 1974-76. In 1976 she was appointed as the first female Chief Protocol of the United States, and from 1989-'92 she was the U.S. ambassador to Czechoslovakia. She also served on the board of directors for many high-profile companies, including The Walt Disney Company and Del Monte.

In the late '90s, Shirley publicly announced that she'd had a mastectomy to treat her breast cancer. A big celebration was planned for her 80th birthday last month; however, she was forced to make it a smaller affair when she suffered a fall in her home and broke her arm the week before.

■ ■ ■

Q: I am mesmerized by the similarities between Julia Roberts and Monica Potter, down to the vocal patterns. Any relationship? —Walter O., via e-mail

A: I also can see the similarities between the actresses; however, they are not related. Monica was born in Cleveland (Go Browns!) in 1971. Her first major role was as the first Sharon Newman on "The Young and The Restless." She went on to feature films, such as "Patch Adams,"


Donald Sutherland

"Con Air" and "Saw." She recently appeared as herself on an episode of the hysterical Starz series "Head Case," where, ironically, Dr. Goode mistakes the actress for Julia Roberts.

■ ■ ■

Q: I became a huge fan of ABC's "Dirty Sexy Money." Since the writers strike it has gone off the air. Does ABC plan on bringing back the show? —Jolene in Minnesota

A: The popular ABC show, starring Peter Krause, Donald Sutherland, Jill Clayburgh and William Baldwin, will be back in the fall for its second season. As of this writing, the show is not scheduled to return before the fall, as "Men in Trees" will be playing out the rest of its season in the "Dirty Sexy Money" time slot.

■ ■ ■

Q: I've been hearing about all these accidents on the set of the new "James Bond" movie. It's almost as if the movie is cursed. What is your take on it? —Gigi, via e-mail

A: I think that although it is unfortunate when these accidents happen, people are human and are bound to make human mistakes. I don't think that means that anything is cursed. There are many, many reports of accidents occurring on movie sets, as well as theatrical sets dating back to the medieval times. We all just have to trust in the fact that the people involved are professionals and are doing all that is humanly possible to avoid accidents.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Parents clash over giving same gifts to different sons

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I disagree on something. Do you think parents MUST do the same things for each of their children, even when there is a great discrepancy in the children's behavior and attitude toward their parents?

We have helped out one of our sons who was having financial difficulties. Now the other son, "Sean," expects to receive the same, although he is defiant and does not treat us with the same respect as his sibling. My husband says because we did it for one child, we must do it for the other. I disagree, and think it's rewarding bad behavior.

—FEUDING IN WISCONSIN

DEAR FEUDING: Sean does not have the right to "demand" anything from you. However, to give one of your sons money while withholding it from the other will create a rift between them that may never heal, and I do not recommend it.

Tempting as it may be to use your checkbook to command compliance, please realize that it won't gain you the respect you feel is lacking. A better solution would be to insist on family counseling as a condition of giving the money. It's an investment that could yield great dividends.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was at the store yesterday with my Gramma when she ran into a friend she hadn't seen in some time. (Her friend is about 87.) As they were talking, Gramma asked her a question that shocked me. She asked, "Do you still have your husband?"

After we left, I told Gramma I thought it was rude to ask someone that question. Her response was, "It's perfectly fine to ask that of someone her age." Is she right?

—KNOW I'M RIGHT IN LAS VEGAS, N.M.

DEAR KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT: The question was not a breach of etiquette. By the time women reach their eighth decade, I'm sad to say, most of them have lost their husbands. Your grandmother's question was legitimate, although she might have been more diplomatic and asked "how" her friend's husband was, rather than if she still had him.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The "pennies from heaven" letters in your column have been a blessing to me. "Patrick" and I were together eight years when he died unexpectedly after turning 31 last February. We considered ourselves married, and never thought we'd need a marriage license to formalize our love.

When Patrick died, his family took his body. They emptied our apartment the next day and refuse to tell me where he is buried.

Three times in the last month I have found pennies dated 1977—the year Patrick was born. One particularly shiny one appeared on the passenger seat of my car on my first day back at work. I'm sure it is his way of telling me not to worry, that he is close by.

Thank you for printing those stories. They have been a source of great comfort to me.

—MOURNING IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR MOURNING: Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. I'm gratified the "pennies" letters have brought you some solace, as they have many other readers, and I hope your experience will enlighten any couple who thinks a marriage license is "only a piece of paper."

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

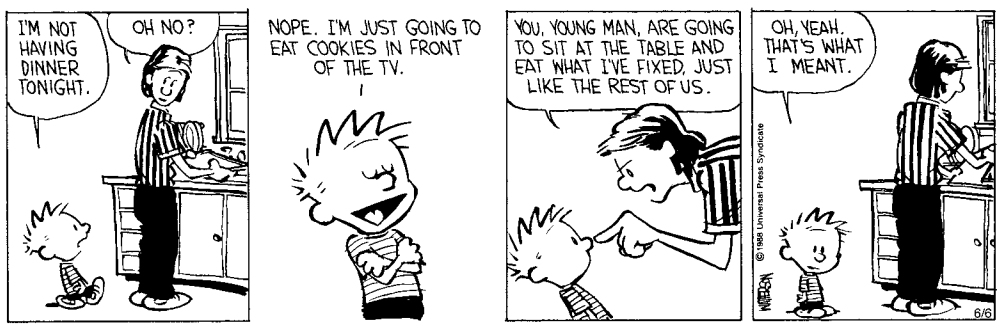
■ ■ ■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M NOT HAVING DINNER TONIGHT.
OH NO?
NOPE. I'M JUST GOING TO EAT COOKIES IN FRONT OF THE TV.
YOU, YOUNG MAN, ARE GOING TO SIT AT THE TABLE AND EAT WHAT I'VE FIXED, JUST LIKE THE REST OF US.
OH, YEAH. THAT'S WHAT I MEANT.
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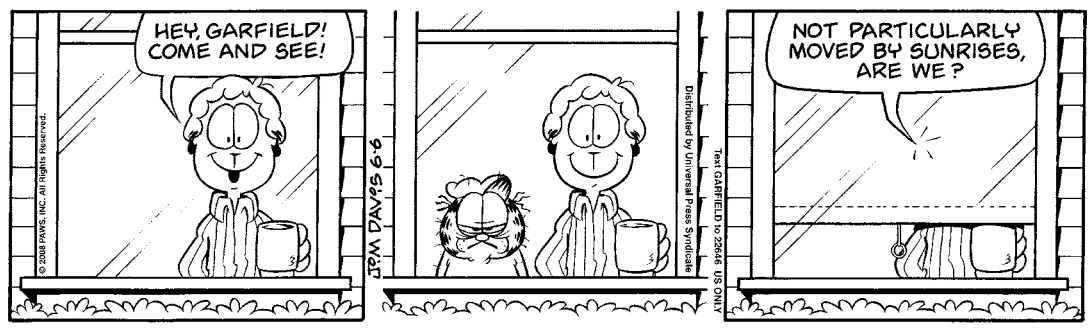
6/6

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


HEY, GARFIELD! COME AND SEE!
NOT PARTICULARLY MOVED BY SUNRISES, ARE WE?
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JIM DAVIS 6-6
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

6/6
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM
ADAM'S HELPFUL TIPS FOR BALANCING WORK and FAMILY.
5. FIND GOOD CHILD CARE.
OK, WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE SITTER THIS TIME?
BRIAN BASSET © 2006 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

FLIP FLIP
TWING
I CAN ALWAYS TELL WHEN YOU'VE TURNED TO THE PAGE IN THE JC PENNEY'S SALE ADS WITH THE UNDERWEAR MODELS.
© Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

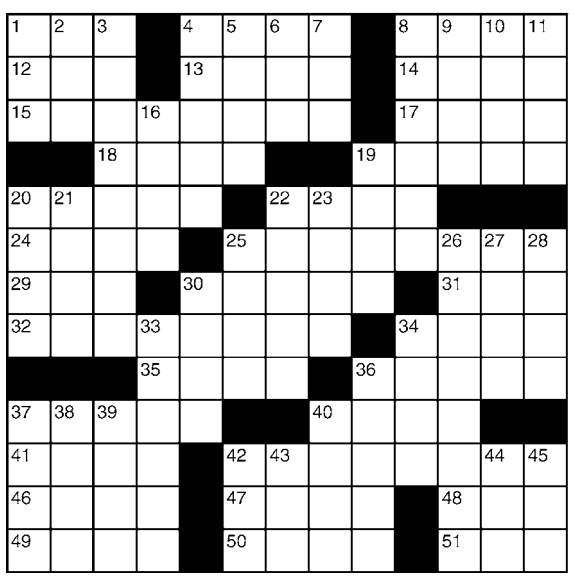
ACROSS
1 Pick a target
4 Snare
8 Small plateau
12 Buck's mate
13 Tittle
14 Finished
15 Platypus feature
17 Stationery quantity
18 Greet
19 Big do
20 Nebraska city
22 Resumes
24 Teller's partner
25 Soft leather
29 Singer DiFranco
30 Splendid setup
31 Praise in verse
32 Tom Sawyer's pal
34 Puncturing tools
35 Run-down horses
36 Twine fibers
37 Pep
40 Modern money
41 Last writes?
42 Eat
46 Pinball flub
47 Shrek is one
48 Prior night
49 Vortex
50 Therefore
51 Uncivilized

DOWN
1 Toss in
2 Chit notation
3 Fender-bender mender
4 Leg bone
5 Disturb
6 Pac. alternative
7 Crony
8 Swamp
9 Eternally
10 Membership
11 Host
16 "Young Frankenstein" cast member
19 Annoyingly slow
20 Brightly hued fish
21 Carte
22 Scorches
23 "— See Clearly Now"
25 Sailor's slammer
26 Obsequious one
27 Between tasks
28 Loch —
30 Distant
33 Difficult to disentangle
34 Emanation
36 Fakes out of position
37 Ballot
38 Footnote abbr.
39 Decorate unnecessarily
40 Beige
42 Youngster
43 "This tastes awful!"
44 Actress Gardner
45 Evergreen

Solution time: 25 mins.

D	O	D	O	■	M	I	L	■	M	E	T	E
A	R	A	B	■	I	D	A	■	I	M	A	M
S	E	W	S	■	L	O	U	■	D	I	G	S
H	O	N	C	H	O	■	N	A	G	S	■	■
■	■	■	E	A	S	Y	D	O	E	S	I	T
B	L	O	N	D	■	A	R	K	■	A	R	I
L	I	V	E	■	W	H	Y	■	G	R	I	T
A	R	E	■	S	A	O	■	S	A	Y	S	O
H	A	R	D	K	N	O	C	K	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	E	I	N	■	L	Y	M	P	H	S
M	A	I	M	■	A	L	I	■	A	L	U	M
U	N	D	O	■	B	I	N	■	S	A	G	E
M	I	E	N	■	E	E	K	■	K	N	E	W

Yesterday's answer 6-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Staci Keanan, 33; Paul Giamatti, 41; Max Casella, 41; Sandra Bernhard, 53

Happy Birthday: Change is all around you this year so accept it and move on. It's the end result that will keep you interested in pushing forward. You will thrive on learning, experiencing and running after adventure. It won't take much to convince everyone that you have a plan that can work, enabling you to get the assistance required for success. Your numbers are 3, 16, 24, 29, 38, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Stick to outside interests. Someone you live with will be quick to back you into an emotional corner. Taking on too much or making promises to others will lead to nervous anxiety and stress. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Plan something special for yourself and your family. Entertaining or making some changes to your surroundings will do a world of good for everyone you love. Put your heart into what you do. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep things simple and truthful. If you exaggerate, you will end up in a precarious, embarrassing position. Stick to the truth and let others do what they will with it. Be smart in your execution but don't step over the line. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Work quietly on your own, resolving past-due issues. A creative approach to something you want to pursue will ensure your success. Don't allow anyone to tamper with your ideas, plans or confidence. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make important changes that allow for alternative means of doing things you want to do. An adventure with friends, travel and romance should be in the works. Celebrating somewhere exotic will help pave the way to a better personal life and a new commitment. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get involved in something you feel passionate about. You can raise money to help the needy or open up a whole new world for future consideration. This is a great day to make new acquaintances but not so good for dealing with those you are familiar with. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Expect an emotional curve ball to enter your sphere. Your immediate reaction may be to overreact but, instead, control your instincts and hold off making any gesture whatsoever. Focus on more entertaining activities: love, romance and travel. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Anger will get you nowhere but being creative, inventive and spontaneous will catapult you to stardom. Be the stellar person you know you can be by reacting calmly to adversity and with passion to something you truly believe in. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can make some crucial moves and decisions regarding money, contracts and legal matters. Cover your back—don't expect someone else to do it for you. Plan a fun evening and romance will follow. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone may not be telling you the truth and it could easily influence a decision you are making. Question motives and answers before you make a move that will be difficult to change. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Family, friends and your lover should play the most important role in your life. Talk through any matters that have been bothering you. Adjustments made now will determine what will happen in the future. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put your efforts into being passionate, whether it is with someone you love or pursuing an activity or interest you want to do well. You will learn from your experience, so don't walk away or judge anyone or anything too quickly. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive to the needs of others. You are a good sport, an excellent friend and a humanitarian. You are an insightful contender.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8	9					
	6		1				4	
		2				6		3
				8			3	5
			5		4			
2	7			9				
4		9				7		
	1				9		8	
					6	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	7	6	1	3	2	5	9
5	9	2	7	4	8	3	6	1
1	6	3	2	9	5	8	7	4
4	1	5	9	8	2	7	3	6
7	3	6	1	5	4	9	2	8
9	2	8	3	7	6	4	1	5
6	5	4	8	2	7	1	9	3
3	7	9	4	6	1	5	8	2
2	8	1	5	3	9	6	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EYE CORRECTION SURGERY **Solution: 8 letters**

C	A	N	D	I	D	A	T	E	S	R	M	A	E	B
S	T	S	R	E	D	R	O	S	I	D	E	P	T	H
T	P	N	E	(S)	H	Y	P	E	R	O	P	I	C	Y
N	R	O	E	C	(Y)	B	O	O	K	A	L	S	A	T
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Advances, Analysis, Beam, Book, Candidates, Cataracts, Chart, Clear, Depth, Disorders, Drops, Eyes, Focus, Glare, Halo, Hyperopic, Implants, Keen, Laser, Lasik, Lenses, Lids, Maintenance, Measurements, Nerve, Operation, Pages, Patient, Pupil, Radial, Range, Rays, Read, Retina, Ring, Safety, Scan, Scar, Severe, Sick, Spots, Tissue, Topography

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB08-CHC-069

SUBMISSION: JUNE 18, 2008 **TIME: 1:00 P.M.**

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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWERBASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP No.: 2008-CDA-05-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Monday, June 9, 2008 **TIME: 10:00 a.m.**

"INSURANCE FOR CDA PROPERTIES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting, CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

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LISS will be holding its 2nd Summer School Program for SY2007-2008 open to all Elementary students.

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CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-DLNR/FW-062

OPENING DATE: JUNE 18, 2008 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW OUTBOARD ENGINE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT SECTION'S JUSTICE VESSEL FOR THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ, D.V.M.
SECRETARY, DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
Succeeding positions	**$2.00**

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF PERSONNET MANAGEMENT
P.O. Box 5153 CHRB, SAIPAN. MP 96950 -5153
TEL. NOS.: (670) 234-6925 /6958/8036
Fax no.: (670) 234-1013

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 08-086
OPENING DATE: 06/02/08
CLOSING DATE: 06/16/08

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: Project Coordinator PL - UNGRADED
$1,413.46 B/W - $36,750.00 P/A
The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: Office of the Governor, Saipan
CIP Program Office

DUTIES:
Technical/Professional Knowledge: Knows & understands contract administration. Knows & understands construction project management principles and techniques. Knows & understands construction documents, plans and specifications. Knows & understands construction practices, methods, materials, applications and standards. Develops project solicitation documents. Develops project contracts. **Communication:** Possesses the understanding and ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. Possesses the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other departments, agencies, elected and appointed officials and the general public. Develops and monitors the programs project budgets. Assumes project responsibility for administering the activities and operations for all CP contracts. Provides administrative support to the Contracting Officer. Provides support, coordination and administration to the Technical Services Division on all open Covenant Section 702 Capital Improvement Program funding. Provides required leadership in all phases of assigned projects. Coordinates project preplanning activities. **Critical Thinking:** Assists in the development of the Capital Improvement Infrastructure Plan. **Continuous Improvement:** Assists others in understanding relevant information related to construction processes. **Managerial:** Maintains accurate and comprehensive records on all assigned projects. **Decisiveness:** Makes and shares decisions in a timely manner. Advises Contracting Officer on project issues in a timely manner. Responds quickly in emergency situations. Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Any combination equivalent to graduation from college or university with a Bachelors Degree preferably in construction management, architecture, engineering, planning, business management or related field. A minimum of five (5) years experience in contract administration from the entire range of pre-award to post-award functions. The incumbent must be knowledgeable of Microsoft Office 2003 or greater particularly in Outlook, Work, Excel and Projects. Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
This position is **"EXEMPT"** is not eligible to receive overtime payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to Part IV.Bl6 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part I.7C of the Excepted Service Regulation (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

NOTE: Education and training claimed under item 25(A) through (F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma or certificate. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 08-087
OPENING DATE: 06/02/08
CLOSING DATE: 06/16/09

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: Program Analyst PL - UNGRADED
$1,461.54 B/W - $38,000.00 P/A
The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: Office of the Governor, Saipan
CIP Program Office

DUTIES:
Provides administrative support to the CIP Administrator and the Contracting Officer. Provides support, coordination and administration of the Covenant section 702 Capital Improvement Program funding. Develops and monitors the program's project budgets. Assists the CIP Administrator in preparation of project drawdowns. Assists the CIP Administrator in preparation of the semi-annual reports (SF269/272). Assists the CIP Administrator in the audit review process. Monitors various project activities and transactions according to the applicable Federal Grant Agreements, local procurement rules and regulations and Appropriation Acts. Assumes project responsibility for administering the activities and operations for all CIP contracts. Possesses the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. Possesses the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with grantor agencies, other departments, agencies, elected, and appointed officials and the general public. Maintains and organizes project files on a daily basis. Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Any combination equivalent to graduation from college or university with an Associate's Degree in accounting, business-related fields such as administration, management or finance; or any equivalent combination of training, experience and additional education that provides the necessary knowledge, abilities and skills. A minimum of eight (8) years of general experience in program administration. Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
This position is **"COVERED"** Is eligible to receive overtime payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to Part IV.B16 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part I.7C of the Excepted Service Regulation (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

NOTE: Education and training claimed under item 25(A) through (F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma or certificate. FAILURB TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATTON.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:

Office of Personnel Management
J.M. Building, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950

Office of Personnel Management
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952

Office of Personnel Management
Songsong Village
Rota, MP 96951

Antonio and Francisca Angui
P.O. Box 7976 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 288-1350

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of: A.R.T.A., Minor Child By: ANTONIO CRUZ ANGUI and FRANCISCA TEIGITA ANGUI, Petitioners.	)))))))))))))	**FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0289** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 12, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 30th day of May, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Date of Birth : January 28, 1981
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF PERSONNET MANAGEMENT
P.O. Box 5153 CHRB, SAIPAN. MP 96950 -5153
TEL. NOS.: (670) 234-6925 /6958/8036
Fax no.: (670) 234-1013

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 08-085
OPENING DATE: 06/02/08
CLOSING DATE: 06/16/08

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: Contracting Officer PL - UNGRADED
$3,846.15 B/W - $100.000.00 P/A
The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: Office of the Governor, Saipan
CIP Program Office

DUTIES:
Authority: Executes and/or terminates CIP Contracts based on relevant findings and determination; Binds the CNMI government into a contract based only on delegated authority. Receives delegated authority from CIP Administrator in writing, specifying the extend and the limits of the authority. Provides the public and agency personnel information on what the Contracting Officer can and cannot do. Ensures all CIP Contracts are complete and correct and have met all the requirements of the law, executive orders, applicable procedures, prior to approval. **Responsibilities:** promotes effective contracting by ensuring that the terms and conditions of a contract are met and complied with, safeguarding the contractual relationship and interest of the CMIM Government; Ensures that all contract requirements are always in compliance with pertinent laws, regulations, policies and procedures; Ensures that sufficient funds are always available for obligations; Ensures that contractors always receive impartial, fair, and equitable treatment; Solicits and considers the advise of specialists pertaining to audits reports, legal matters, engineering, transportation, etc.; Communicates effectively in speaking and in writing. Interacts effectively with office staff, public employees and clienteles; Conducts effective problem-solving and analyzes technical problems; Updates and implements applicable rules, regulations, policies and procedures pertaining to contract administration for both the CNMI Government and the Federal Grant funds; Assigns 702 CIP projects to the Project Managers; Reviews and approves project packages prepared by the702 CIP Project Managers for contractual feasibility prior to submission to the Office of Insular Affairs; Delegates 702 CIP contract related duties to the Project Manager as necessary. **Pre-Award:** Prepares pre-award contract documents including but not limited to specifications, invitation to bid, requests for proposals and requests for qualifications. Reviews and approves solicitation packages; Approves the selection of an evaluation committee to review proposals; Negotiates the price, technical requirements and the terms and conditions of the contract as necessary; Awards approved contracts and issues Notices to Proceed. **Mid-Award/Contract Administration:** Verifies, with the assistance of the project Managers, that the contractor performs the technical requirements of the contract in accordance with the contract terms, conditions and specifications. Evaluates with the assistance of the Project Managers, contractor performance for quality, timeliness, and acceptability, as outlined by the terms of the contracts; Reviews, negotiates and approves contractual change orders; Investigates and documents any suspected fraud and reports findings to the Public Auditor; Resolves any contract dispute(s); Conducts sit visits. **Post-Award:** Prepares all required post-award contract documents; Ensures that all necessary inspections of the completed projects are conducted; Ensures that any identified deficiencies are addressed/corrected; Ensures prompt contractual termination and close-out upon completion of the project. **Administrative:** Drafts and issues necessary letters/correspondence; Conducts formal pre-award, mid-award, negotiation and post-award conferences and other meetings as necessary; Reviews all letters/correspondences, reports and other materials by contractors; Certifies contractor invoices for accuracy and approves payments. **Record Keeping/Documentation:** Maintains files with copies of all documents and relevant communication concerning CIP contracts; Prepares memoranda for the record covering all meetings/discussions with contractors; Documents any violations of contract provisions; Assists project Managers with duties pertaining to contracting. Performs other related duties as assisted.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from college or university with a Bachelors Degree preferably in business or business-related fields such as administration, management, finance, accounting or pre-law (other fields of study will be considered on a case-by-case basis). Must possess a minimum of five (5) years experience in contract administration from the entire range of pre-award to post-award functions ("cradle to grave"). Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
This position is **"EXEMPT"** Is not eligible to receive overtime payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to part IV.BI6 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part I.7C of the Excepted Service Regulation (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

NOTE: Education and training claimed under item 25(A) through (F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma or certificate. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION. INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:

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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Lakers and Celtics set to rekindle Finals rivalry

BOSTON (AP)—They're like long, lost fraternity brothers who left college with bad haircuts and wearing those thigh-hugging short shorts that were fashionable during the Reagan years. They drifted to opposite coasts and barely kept in touch.

Well, they've reconnected and are getting back together.

The Boston Celtics and Los Angeles Lakers are going to a reunion in a place they both know so well—the NBA finals.

It's about time, huh?

"I feel like a little kid," said Celtics forward Paul Pierce, who grew up in L.A. and used to sneak into the Lakers' home arena. "Now I understand that, hey, I'm going to be a part of history. This is something I grew up watching, the Laker-Celtics rivalries."

Following a 21-year separation, pro basketball's pillars of power will revive their bitter rivalry starting Thursday night at TD Banknorth Garden for Game 1 of a best-of-seven series drenched in nostalgia and stuffed with enough history to fill every playground hoop from Springfield to Southern California.

The famed franchises, who have combined to win 30 of 61 championships, are squaring off in the finals for the 11th time and first since 1987. These finals figure to deliver a needed jolt of excitement to the league, which began the 2007-08 season entangled in a gambling probe involving one of its referees and whose signature event has strained to recapture the sporting spotlight since the '80s, when Celtics vs. Lakers, Bird vs. Magic was a rite of spring.

Television ratings are expected to jump dramatically thanks to a finals loaded with juicy storylines: Kobe Bryant's run toward a fourth championship ring—and first without Shaquille O'Neal; Boston's Big Three of Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen shooting for their first ones; and Lakers coach Phil Jackson trying to win his record 10th title, one more than Red Auerbach, the Celtics' late legend whose presence hovers over the team like smoke from one of his victory cigars.

On the short list of celebrated rivalries—Hatfields-McCoys, Yankees-Red Sox, North Carolina-Duke, Ohio State-Michigan—Lakers-Celtics stands near the top.

"I think this is a great thing not just for the NBA, but just for sports in general," Lakers guard Derek Fisher said. "I think it's a great thing when the best gets a chance to compete against the best, and whoever comes out on top, they earned it. I think both teams should be proud to be here."

A year ago, it would have been impossible to imagine these hardwood Goliaths in the playoffs, never mind clashing for a title.

The Celtics won 24 games last season, and all the mystique and charm that makes them special had seemingly vanished. Last year, Boston's immediate future looked bleak after the club failed to win the NBA lottery, a devastating blow for a team in full rebuild mode.

But the green-and-white began its rebound on draft night last June, when general manager Danny Ainge traded first for Allen and later managed to land Garnett, a superstar stuck with the Minnesota Timberwolves, and a player, as it turns out, who almost became a Laker.

"We gave a great chase to Garnett last year," Jackson revealed Wednesday before his team practiced. "We put a lot of pressure on the Minnesota franchise and felt like we had the inside track on that, and that we could end up missing out on that opportunity and still be here in this challenge, the finals, is really kind of a great story in itself."

For the Lakers, though, nothing trumps what Bryant has done to get the franchise within four wins of a 15th championship. After the club was bounced in the first round of the playoffs last season, a frustrated Bryant challenged the team's front office to upgrade the roster.

By summer, he was demanding a trade while at the same time enhancing his reputation as a selfish, arrogant, egomaniacal player. In truth, Bryant just wanted to win—badly—and didn't want to be on a team that didn't share his drive.

However, in his 12th season, Bryant has matured on and off the floor. He has led by example, mentoring the Lakers' younger players and winning his first MVP award, an honor he probably deserved in the past but never received in part because of his perceived me-first, team-second image.

"He's the captain of this team, and we follow his lead," Lamar Odom said. "Kobe is the first one in the gym, the last one to leave. He's the first one in the weight room, the last one to leave. You try to compete against him and there's no competing against him. If we have a 10 o'clock practice, Kobe is there at 8:45 preparing to be the best.

"And some of that has rubbed off on me and my teammates, and that's the only reason why I'm sitting here talking today."

Beyond Bryant, Los Angeles' acquisition of center Pau Gasol in a midseason trade with Memphis changed the course of its season. The Lakers went 23-5 with the All-Star in their lineup and certainly could have used him in two regular-season losses to the Celtics, who won 107-94 in Boston on Nov. 23 and 110-91 in Los Angeles on Dec. 30.

Jackson isn't putting much stock in those matchups.

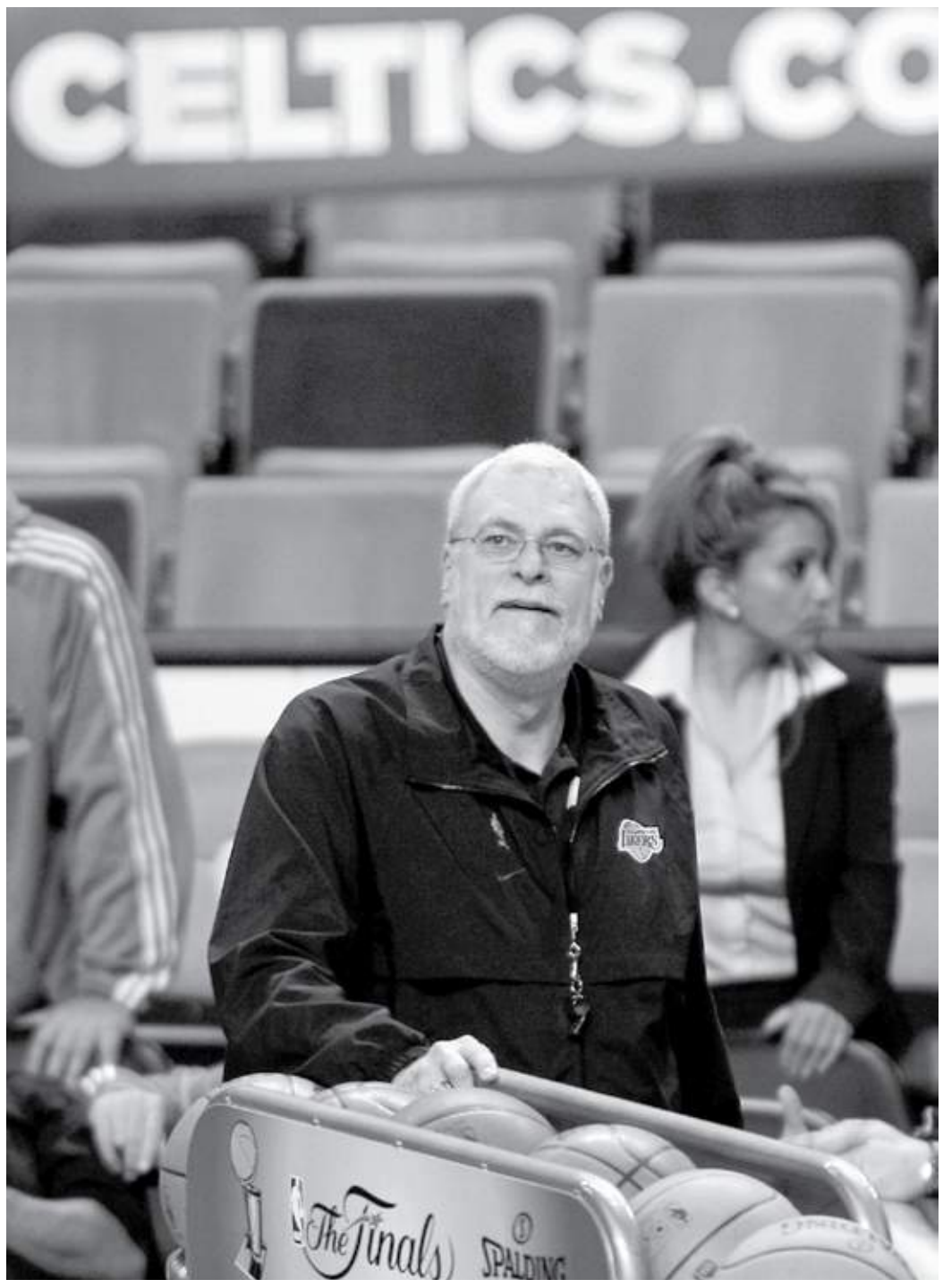
"We had Thanksgiving Thursday here, played on Friday. We were full of turkey," cracked Jackson, 9-1 in the finals. "The game in late December was much more reflective of the team. However, we wore those short shorts that night and lost our attitude early. I think the guys got a little tight."

Boston's lack of experience in the finals—none of its starters have played in one previously—could be a factor. But Garnett, who led the Celtics to 66 regular-season wins and an Eastern Conference title in his first season with them, isn't worried about his teammates becoming rattled in their first trip to the big stage.

"At the end of the day, it's just basketball," he said. "You play the way you know. You bring what you bring, play with your heart and soul and play together, play as a team."

The Celtics' Big Three have waited their entire careers for their first shot at history. Bryant knows that to keep them from raising a 17th banner to Boston's rafters, the Lakers will need to be the quicker team, the smarter team, the better team.

"From my experience, you have to execute," he said. "You can want it worse than anybody on the planet, but if you don't have a group of guys or a team that executes well enough to win, you're not going to win."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson wheels balls on the court during practice prior to Game 1 of the NBA Finals basketball series against the Boston Celtics in Boston Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

Big 3 played as 1 to help Celtics return to Finals

BOSTON (AP)—Three stars. One basketball. Zero complaints. Boston's Big Three of Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen are playing for a championship in their first year together, finding success in the kind of selflessness only losing can teach.

Their scoring is down. Their minutes are down. But their spirits are up, because after a combined 2,774 career games, they're about to play their first in the NBA finals.

"We've all been on that side of the fence, where everybody pats you on your back and tells you they love you because you hit the last-second shot," Allen said this week as the Celtics prepared for Thursday night's series opener against the Los Angeles Lakers.

"Now, it's about winning, and being able to say that you won, and being to that certain promised land that everybody talks about trying to get to. We know we need each other to get there. Sometimes doing less is more."

With 25 All-Star appearances, thousands of points and, yes, plenty of winning shots, the Big Three have resumes to admire. Garnett already has Hall of Fame credentials, and Pierce and Allen would have a better chance if they're riding through downtown Boston in a parade this month.

"They all had great individual careers, and they needed team success. And I think that helped us," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "They have done everything except for one thing, and the one they haven't done you can't buy."

A career 21-point scorer and eight-time All-Star, Allen's average went up each year for five seasons before he was traded to Boston last summer. As the third option in the Big Three, he dropped nine points off his average from last year—from 26.4 to 17.4.

Pierce had averaged 25 points from 2000-2007; he was down to 19.6 per game this season.

Oh, but there was one stat that went up: assists.

"When we first got together, we talked about all those things. But at the end of the day we said, 'What's the ultimate goal: winning ballgames,'" Pierce said. "Once we put our feet in the middle and said we're all-in, that was it."

Garnett was a 20-point, 10-rebound guy for each of the previous nine seasons. His numbers are also down this year—18.8 and 9.2—but no one is suggesting that his performance dropped off: He finished third in the MVP voting, and he was named the NBA's defensive player of the year.

"I think the reason the three of us work is because we actually don't just talk to you guys about sacrifice, but it's something that we actually exercise," Garnett said Wednesday. "It's our way of life. It's what we do, it's what we've been doing. ... We put the team above everything and the wins above everything, and at the end of the day that's all that matters."

You could forgive point guard Rajon Rondo if he didn't know how things were going to work out. In just his second year in the league—his first as a starter—his job was to find the most open of his teammates, knowing that the other two could probably score as well.

On some teams, the wrong decision can lead to a lot of dirty looks and some grumbled, "Hey, I was open."

Rondo hasn't heard a single gripe.

"You expect it from guys like that, but they've been great teammates," Rondo said. "They all want the ball, but they're very unselfish guys—especially the Big Three."

Ask backup point guard Sam Cassell, and he'll say it's because they have already had the opportunity to make the big shots, put up the big statistics, and earn the big contracts.

"Younger guys all try to get their numbers," Cassell said, "but they're already stars."

But Rivers said he doesn't think Garnett was ever like that. "Kevin's been unselfish his whole career. Scoring doesn't drive him," the coach said.

Rivers knows a little about spreading the ball around.

As a player, he averaged just under six assists per game in a 13-year career, much of it feeding the ball to Dominique Wilkins. As a coach, he's preached selflessness and adopted as the team's motto the African concept of "Ubuntu," which he translates as "a person is a person through other people."

For Rivers, sacrificing yourself for the team is a nonnegotiable part of his philosophy.

"That's not something I'm ever going to give in to," he said.

Sure, but a lot of coaches preach selflessness only to be undermined by players with big contracts and big egos.

"There have been guys I haven't reached, let's put it that way," Rivers said, "and none of them are here."

Red Sox beat Rays to take 1st place

BOSTON (AP) — Josh Beckett allowed a run in six strong innings and the Boston Red Sox won their 12th straight home game to take the American League East lead from Tampa Bay with a 5-1 win over the Rays on Wednesday.

Beckett (6-4) left after throwing 92 pitches, allowing seven hits with five strikeouts and no walks.

J.D. Drew, batting third in place of the injured David Ortiz, continued his surge with an RBI double, a single and two runs.

Tampa Bay starter Edwin Jackson's struggles at Fenway Park continued as he left after five innings trailing 4-1. Jackson (3-5) is 0-3 in his career there, allowing 20 earned runs in 22 innings.

AP

Boston Red Sox starter Josh Beckett, left, delivers to Tampa Bay Rays designated hitter Cliff Floyd in the first inning of their MLB baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday June 4, 2008.

Angels 5, Mariners 4

At Seattle, Torii Hunter hit a two-run single in a big first inning before Jered Weaver and three relievers preserved the victory for Los Angeles.

Weaver (5-6) allowed 10 hits for the fifth time in 13 starts this season—but won for the third time in four starts.

Carlos Silva (3-6), whom Seattle signed to a $48 million (€31 million), four-year contract before the season, was down 3-0 in the first following an RBI double by Howie Kendrick and Hunter's two-run single.

Athletics 10, Tigers 2

At Oakland, California, Justin Duchscherer allowed three hits over 6 2-3 innings and Oakland completed a three-game sweep.

Duchscherer (5-4) struck out three and faced only one batter over the minimum through the first five innings while winning despite a season-high five walks.

Detroit starter Nate Robertson (3-6) took the loss after giving up five runs and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings. The left-hander remained winless in five starts on the road.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 1

At New York, Mike Mussina tied for the AL lead in wins and Derek Jeter passed Mickey Mantle on New York career hits list.

Wilson Betemit homered off Jesse Litsch (7-2) and the Yankees snapped a three-game skid.

Mussina (9-4) pitched six strong innings and Jeter, Johnny Damon, Melky Cabrera and Hideki Matsui hit RBI singles to back him.

Jeter's single put New York ahead and gave him 2,416 hits, good for third place on the franchise list behind Lou Gehrig (2,721) and Babe Ruth (2,518).

Twins 7, Orioles 5

At Minneapolis, Joe Mauer homered and drove in three runs and Boof Bonser got a win in his first relief appearance for Minnesota.

Mauer, who hit his first homer of the season against New York on Monday, went deep against Jamie Walker in the seventh to give Minnesota a two-run lead.

In the fifth, Mauer drove in two runs with one sacrifice fly—the first such feat in the majors in more than seven years—to bring his team within one.

Daniel Cabrera (5-2) lost for the first time in six starts. He gave up eight hits and hit two batters in six innings.

Twins starter Glen Perkins allowed nine hits and five runs—four earned—in four innings.

Indians 15, Rangers 9

At Arlington, Texas, Ryan Garko drove in a career-high six runs and had four hits and David Dellucci hit a three-run homer for Cleveland against Texas.

Dellucci extended Cleveland's lead to 11-6 in the sixth inning against Elizardo Ramirez (0-1) with his sixth homer. It came one batter after Garko's two-run single had put the Indians in front.

Texas pitchers have allowed 48 runs in the last four games.

Ben Francisco had a career-high five hits, and Grady Sizemore homered for Cleveland.

White Sox 6, Royals 4, 15 innings

At Chicago, Paul Konerko hit a two-run homer to win it for Chicago.

Konerko, batting only .198 when he came up against Jimmy Gobble (0-1), hit his seventh homer, a drive to left field to score Carlos Quentin, who had drawn a leadoff walk.

Octavio Dotel (3-2) pitched 2 2-3 innings of hitless relief for Chicago. Each team used seven pitchers in the 4-hour, 23-minute game.

David DeJesus hit a tying two-run single in the ninth off White Sox closer Bobby Jenks, who blew his third save in 17 chances.

Joe Crede and Jim Thome homered for the White Sox. Miguel Olivo and Mark Teahen had homers for the Royals.

Reds 2, Phillies 0

At Philadelphia, Joey Votto's two-out RBI double in the seventh inning spoiled Brett Myers' bid for a no-hitter, and the Cincinnati Reds beat the Philadelphia Phillies 2-0 in the National League on Wednesday.

Ken Griffey Jr., one home run shy of 600, wasn't in the Reds' lineup for the third consecutive game because of general soreness. For the second straight game, he walked as a pinch hitter in the eighth.

Impressive Reds pitcher Edinson Volquez (8-2) allowed two hits, struck out eight, walked two and hit two batters in seven innings, lowering his ERA to a major league best 1.32.

Myers (3-7) retired the first 13 batters before he walked Adam Dunn with one out in the fifth. He gave up one run, one hit and walked a season-high six in 7 1-3 innings, striking out eight.

Pirates 5, Astros 2

At Pittsburgh, Zach Duke allowed two runs over 7 2-3 innings and Raul Chavez drove in three runs to lead Pittsburgh.

Duke (3-4) gave up seven hits, and struck out two. The left-hander had his longest outing of the season and won for the first time in seven career starts against Houston.

Ty Wigginton hit a solo home run and Carlos Lee had an RBI single for the Astros.

Roy Oswalt (4-6) allowed three earned runs and nine hits. Before this game, Oswalt was 5-0 with a 1.84 ERA in his past eight starts against the Pirates.

Brewers 10, Diamondbacks 1

At Milwaukee, Corey Hart hit a three-run, inside-the-park homer and Russell Branyan followed with a conventional shot to lift surging Milwaukee to its sixth straight win.

Brewers starter Manny Parra (4-2) tied a career high with eight strikeouts in seven innings, retiring his final 14 batters as Milwaukee finished its homestand 8-1 and swept Arizona for the first time since August 2000.

Micah Owings (6-4) allowed five runs—four earned—in three innings. It took him 25 pitches to record his first out after committing a throwing error and allowing an RBI double by Gabe Kapler, who tied a career high with four hits.

Marlins 6, Braves 4

At Atlanta, Hanley Ramirez hit two homers, including a two-run shot in a four-run ninth inning for Florida.

Mike Rabelo hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth as Atlanta closer Manny Acosta blew a 4-2 lead. Acosta (3-3) recorded only one out while giving up four hits, three for extra bases, and four runs for his second blown save in five opportunities.

John Smoltz, who hoped to return as the team's closer, announced he will have season-ending shoulder surgery next week.

Rockies 2, Dodgers 1

At Los Angeles, Aaron Cook pitched eight sharp innings and Jeff Baker drove in both Colorado runs with his first home run of the season.

Cook (8-3) allowed a run and six hits.

Clayton Kershaw (0-1) threw 104 pitches in five innings, allowing two runs and five hits.

Mets 5, Giants 3

At San Francisco, Jose Reyes hit a leadoff double, then homered and singled to help John Maine and New York.

Reyes scored twice and Carlos Beltran added a two-run double for the Mets.

Reyes, who had his 18-game hitting streak stopped Tuesday night, connected off Matt Cain (2-4) for a two-run homer in the fourth. Reyes' eighth home run of the year came after Maine walked. Maine (6-4) got a 3-0 lead in the first inning and made it hold up.

Padres 2, Cubs 1

At San Diego, Kevin Kouzmanoff hit a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning and Greg Maddux and two relievers combined on a four-hitter as San Diego snapped Chicago's nine-game winning streak.

Brian Giles led off the eighth with a double off Ted Lilly (5-5). After he moved to third on a flyout, Kouzmanoff hit his sacrifice fly to center off Carlos Marmol to make it 2-1.

Chicago's winning streak was its longest since 2001. Despite the loss, the Cubs (38-22) still have the best record in the majors.

Maddux allowed one run and three hits in seven innings. The 42-year-old threw just 69 pitches before he was lifted for a pinch hitter in the seventh.

Big Brown to break from No. 1 post in Belmont

NEW YORK (AP)—Big Brown is No. 1 again before he even stampedes out of the gate at the Belmont Stakes.

Big Brown will take his shot at Triple Crown history from the inside, drawing the No. 1 post for Saturday's race. The post could be a lucky one for an undefeated colt that really doesn't need any extra edge: It's produced the most Belmont winners (23) since 1905.

Big Brown was installed as the early 2-5 favorite against nine rivals Wednesday for the grueling 1 1/2-mile race.

Big Brown won the Kentucky Derby from the outside and he dominated the Preakness starting in the middle of the pack. Now, the colt has a shot at winning from the rail. Jockey Kent Desormeaux, whose flawless handling of the horse has Big Brown in position for the first Triple Crown in 30 years, said the inside was a better spot.

"Absolutely, because it's an easier trip," he said. "I would be able to just guide and glide. Now, I'm going to have to jockey for position. He's so fast away from the gate, though, the race might be over in 40 yards."

Surprise, surprise. Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. said Big Brown would win no matter the post position. Not even the quarter crack in his left front hoof, set to be patched on Friday, can shake the trainer's confidence.

"I just can't see a post position getting him beat," he said. "As long as we break good, I can see us getting a good trip. There is not a lot of speed in the race. If we need our horse early on, he'll be there for us."

Casino Drive owner Hidetoshi Yamamoto dismissed all of Dutrow's boasts, saying through a translator: "No one wins with chatter. No one wins with a big mouth."

In 2006, Casino Drive's half brother, Jazil, won the Belmont Stakes, and a year later his three-quarter sister Rags to Riches became the first filly to win the race in 102 years.

Casino Drive racing manager Nobutaka Tada said he was amused with Dutrow's comments about how Big Brown can't be defeated.

Big Brown is 5-0, winning by a combined 39 lengths. A Belmont victory would make him the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed completed the sweep 30 years ago.

His main challenger, Japanese-bred Casino Drive, will start from the No. 5 post. He is the 7-2 second choice on the morning line. He and Big Brown are the only horses with single-digit odds.

Denis of Cork was listed as the 12-1 third choice. He rallied from 20th to finish third in the Derby.

Nick Zito will saddle a pair of 30-1 shots—Da'Tara and Anak Nakal, who finished seventh in the Kentucky Derby. Da'Tara was ninth in the Florida Derby, beaten by 23 1/2 lengths by Big Brown.

Guadalcanal was a surprise late entry. The colt is winless in five starts for owner-trainer Fred Seitz, but was second by a nose while going the Belmont distance of 1 1/2 miles in his last start on turf at Churchill Downs.

Big Brown walked around his barn Wednesday, staying out of the morning rain.

"The horse is doing great. Everybody has seen him run. He's beaten mostly every horse in the race with ease," Dutrow said. "We've got a couple of newcomers. I don't think they add too much."

One of these horses could be the big, bad spoiler to derail yet another Triple Crown hopeful. Smarty Jones was the last horse to try for racing's biggest prize in 2004. His owners believed there were jockeys in the field that purposely tried to hinder Smarty Jones' attempt rather than try to win the race.

Desormeaux can't imagine that kind of sabotage playing out on Saturday.

"I don't know that my peers this year would act that way," he said. "It's a different (jockeys') colony. It's happened before, but I don't think I ride with those kinds of guys."

Wood Memorial winner Tale of Ekati was fourth in the Derby for trainer Barclay Tagg.

Two Preakness runners are taking on Big Brown again. Macho Again was second in the Preakness and Icabad Crane was third.

Ready's Echo was third in the Peter Pan at Belmont, won by Casino Drive in his only U.S. start.

Federer reaches 16th straight Grand Slam semifinal

PARIS (AP)—There have been times this year when Roger Federer's cloak of infallibility slid from his shoulders, when his absolute dominance against anyone but Rafael Nadal and at any tournament but the French Open wasn't quite so absolute.

Federer arrived at Roland Garros with one title, his lowest count since 2001. He arrived with seven losses, more than his total for any of the previous three entire seasons.

And so it was Wednesday that for the first set of his French Open quarterfinal against 24th-seeded Fernando Gonzalez, Federer looked, well, human. His serve was broken three times. He shanked shots. He was, by his own admission, "a little bit rattled."

Still, as he's done so many times, Federer adjusted and regrouped, beating Gonzalez 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 to extend his own record by reaching a 16th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal. Federer moved two wins away from completing a career Slam and earning his 13th major championship, which would leave him one shy of Pete Sampras' mark.

"At one stage, I was a bit afraid," the No. 1-ranked Federer said, "because the match was not going the way I wanted."

In addition to his opening-set lapse, Federer fell behind love-40 while serving to begin the third. Given a chance to pull ahead again, Gonzalez missed two relatively easy shots before Federer won a 13-stroke exchange to account for the third break point. Thus began this amazing stretch: Federer won 36 of the last 40 points on his serve, including each of the final 17.

"It wasn't the same Federer as the first set," said Gonzalez, who fell to 1-11 against the Swiss star, including a loss in the 2007 Australian Open final.

Impressive as it was, Federer's turnaround had nothing on the one fashioned Wednesday by No. 13-seeded Dinara Safina in the women's quarterfinals. The younger sister of two-time major champion Marat Safin trailed No. 7 Elena Dementieva by a set and 5-2 in the second, then was one point from losing at 5-3, before coming all the way back to win 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-0.

The deficit was identical to the one faced by Safina a round earlier, when she trailed by a set and 5-2 in the second, and erased a match point at 5-3, en route to upsetting No. 1 Maria Sharapova.

"Once you went through this," Safina said, "you always believe: 'Why not the second time?'"

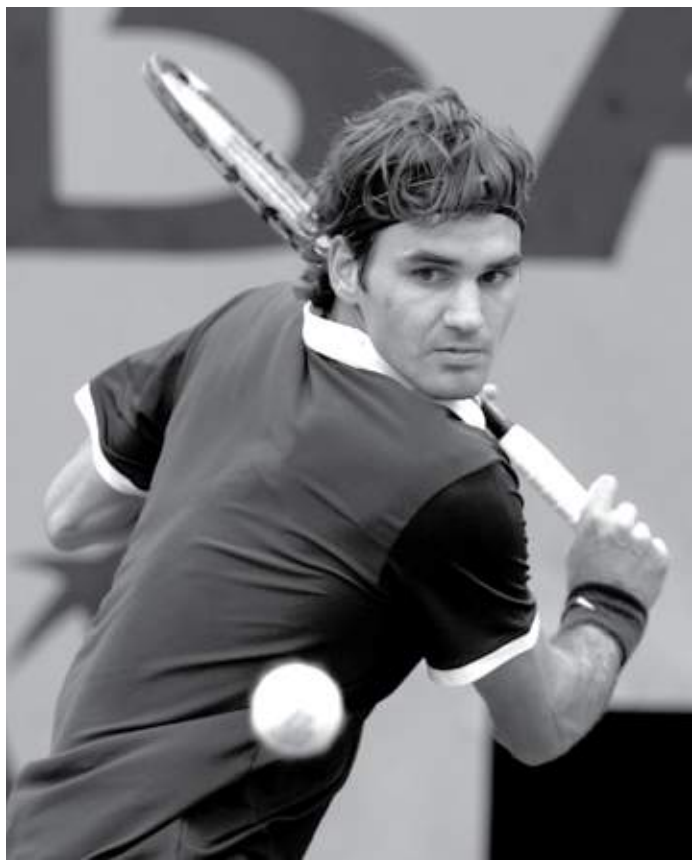
Safina's semifinal Thursday will be an all-Russian matchup against No. 4 Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 2004 U.S. Open champion and 2006 French Open runner-up. No. 2 Ana Ivanovic and No. 3 Jelena Jankovic will meet in an all-Serbian semifinal.

Kuznetsova, who defeated Kaia Kanepi of Estonia 7-5, 6-2, took note of Safina's last two performances.

"She has too many lives," Kuznetsova said, "so I have to be careful."

Safina looked quite a bit like her brother between points, throwing mini-tantrums, including when she whacked some courtside geraniums with her racket, scattering red petals.

She handed Dementieva a match point at 5-3 in the second set by double-faulting to 30-40.



AP

Top seeded Switzerland's Roger Federer returns the ball to Chile's Fernando Gonzalez during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament, Wednesday June 4, 2008 at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

"I just choked so badly," Safina said.

Dementieva repaid the favor, though, by flubbing a backhand return. Later in that set, Safina wasted five set points—three at 6-5, two in the tiebreaker—before finally converting on her sixth with a backhand winner that caught the baseline.

The final set was no contest, allowing Safina to reach her first major semifinal.

"You can say that it's a breakthrough," she said.

Federer's semifinal streak includes four straight in France, but he lost at that stage in 2005 and in the finals in 2006 and 2007—each time against Nadal.

"To make four in a row is a great accomplishment, but this year I'm obviously particularly aiming for the title," said Federer, who recently enlisted the help of Jose Higueras, past coach of French Open champions Michael Chang and Jim Courier. "So I hope it's not going to stop here."

On Friday, Federer faces 59th-ranked Gael Monfils, a 21-year-old Frenchman who is the lowest-ranked semifinalist in Paris since 1999. It's Monfils' first Grand Slam semifinal.

"I'm at home," Monfils said after delighting local fans by knocking off No. 5 David Ferrer 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1. "I'm ready and waiting for him."

In Friday's other match, three-time defending champion Nadal will take a 26-0 record at the French Open into his showdown with No. 3 Novak Djokovic, the Australian Open winner.

No one is as dominant on clay as Nadal, of course, but Gonzalez entered Wednesday with a 16-0 record on the slow surface in 2008.

He hits nearly every shot as though it might be his last, particularly on his favored forehand. That wing was giving Federer trouble at the outset, and Gonzalez used it to go 3-for-3 on break points in the first set.

The rest of the way? He went 0-for-3, all coming at the pivotal start of the third set.

It helped that Federer began putting in more first serves. And that his down-the-line backhand was clicking. And that his forehand began to find the mark.

Oh, and that he realized he should try pushing forward more.

"It was particularly important for me to have an aggressive mind-set," Federer said. "You definitely have players where you get a chance to come in more than against others. But on clay it's always hard."

Not on this day. Federer won the point on 28 of 31 trips to the net over the final three sets.

"He took control," Gonzalez said, "and he didn't let me do too much."

SSC Golf Tournament still a go tomorrow

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 Saipan Swim Club Golf Tournament will tee off as planned tomorrow, June 7, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

SSC head coach Michael Stewart said the fundraising tournament will have a showtime of 6am with shotgun start scheduled at 7am.

He said the tournament will use the ever-popular double Peoria format and entry fee is $90.

First place is assured $300 and a trophy, second place is $200 and a trophy, and third place is $100 and a trophy.

Stewart said aside from the awards for the Top 3 in the double Peoria competition, first place in the low gross for men and women will also take home "awesome and fabulous" in-kind prizes as well as handsome trophies.

An awards banquet will also be held immediately after the conclusion of the golf tournament at Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Stewart also took time to thank the 2008 Saipan Swim Club Golf Tournament sponsors, namely Deloite & Associates Accounting, Pacific Rim International Realty, Law Offices of Colin Thompson, and Jess Wabol and the Refaluwasch Golf Association

The 2008 Saipan Swim Club Golf Tournament will benefit the swimmers of the SSC.

Scheduling snafus snuffed out this last year's 2nd Annual Saipan Swim Club Golf Tournament.

For more information about the 2008 Saipan Swim Club Golf Tournament, call Stewart at 288-9474 or Jess Wabol at Cheap Charlies at 233-3673. Stewart added that businesses that would also like to sponsor the tournament can call him.

DETROIT

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championship team is the first in league history to be captained by a European.

"I've been over here for a long time and I watched Steve Yzerman hoist it for three times in the past," the Swedish defenseman said. "I'm very proud of being the first European. I'm very proud of being a captain of the Red Wings."

The celebration came two nights later than expected. The Penguins forced the series back to Pennsylvania by tying Game 5 with 34.3 seconds left in regulation and winning it shortly before 1 a.m. in Detroit on Petr Sykora's power-play goal in triple overtime.

Undeterred, the Red Wings wrapped up their fourth straight series on the road in these playoffs. Detroit is third in NHL titles, trailing fellow Original Six clubs Montreal and Toronto.

It was the best night for Swedish hockey since the national squad won the gold medal at the 2006 Turin Olympics. Along with Lidstrom's achievement, Henrik Zetterberg, who had a goal and assist in the Cup clincher, earned the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP.

Just like in Game 5, things got a little dicey for the Red Wings, who allowed Marian Hossa's power-play goal with 1:27 remaining that got the Penguins to 3-2. Pittsburgh had already pulled Game 5 hero Marc-Andre Fleury to create a 6-on-4 skating edge.

With the final seconds ticking down, Penguins captain Sidney Crosby put a backhander on goal that Hossa just missed with a tip at the right post.

"I knew it was a good backhander," goalie Chris Osgood said. "I tried to get as far out as I could, and it ended up hitting my arm. I think time had ran out before it started rolling over the side of the net. I was happy to see the ref yell time was up."

That set off a pile-on celebration behind the Detroit net as the disappointed fans in Mellon Arena saluted their club once more with a chant of "Let's Go Pens!"

"I don't know how many seconds were left, but when I saw the puck behind the net, and I looked up and it was 0:00 on the game clock, I was a pretty happy man," Zetterberg said.

His goal 7:36 into the third period, that was pushed in by the backside of Fleury, extended the Red Wings' lead to 3-1. He tied teammate and countryman Johan Franzen for the playoff lead with 13 goals, and matched Crosby for the postseason scoring crown with 27 points.

Lidstrom is one of five players to be with the Red Wings for their four most recent titles (1997, 1998, 2002, 2008). He handed off the Cup to forward Dallas Drake, a champion for the first time in 14 seasons.

"I started thinking about it actually in the first round," Lidstrom said. "I didn't tell anyone about it, but I started thinking about if we were to go the whole way, who should be the guy I gave it to first."

Crosby came close in his third NHL season to adding a Stanley Cup to his resume that already includes a scoring crown and a league MVP award.

Only one team that trailed 3-1 in the finals came all the way back to win the Cup, the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs against Detroit. Pittsburgh was trying to become the seventh to force a Game 7

"It's not a fun time, but we've got to remember this feeling for sure," a red-eyed Crosby said. "We left it out there and obviously we wanted to leave everything out there on the ice and see what happens. We had our chance."

Brian Rafalski gave Detroit a 1-0 lead in the first period with a power-play goal, and Valtteri Filppula doubled it in the second for the Red Wings, who had 30 shots. Osgood made 20 saves and improved to 14-4 in the playoffs after taking over for goalie Dominik Hasek in the first round. Osgood allowed only 30 goals in 19 games and posted back-to-back shutouts in the first two games of the finals.

Detroit earned its final two victories of the championship series in Pittsburgh, where the Penguins won their first nine postseason games. Until the Red Wings came to town, the Penguins hadn't lost at home since February and were 12-2 in the postseason.

Fleury, brilliant in making 55 saves Monday in Pittsburgh's thrilling 4-3 win in triple overtime, couldn't repeat that performance. Filppula's rebound goal 8:07 into the second period was certainly one he'd like to have back along with the Zetterberg's winner.

Fleury blocked the snap shot from the right circle, but the puck trickled between his pads and came to a stop in the blue-painted crease. The 23-year-old netminder dropped to his backside and knocked the puck in before it could be swept away by his defenseman.

DANIEL

From Page 44

with Rezne Wong and brothers Shin and Kensuke Kimura in the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships held last May 30 and 31 in the Hagatna Pool.

Wong and the Kimura brothers all had to cut down on their participation in the meet in an effort to go all out in winning a medal for Villegas.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said that he and the rest of the club are proud of Villegas' accomplishment in the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships.

"Daniel exemplifies tremendous fighting spirit and is an inspiration to other team members," he said.

Aside from the relays, Villegas also competed in the 50m and 100m freestyle event. While he did not get a lifetime best in the 100m freestyle, Villegas outdid himself by recording an LTB in the 50m freestyle with an impressive 28.78.

After the race, Villegas told coach Kimura that he swam the 50m freestyle like his life depended on it—with total abandon.

Coach Kimura said his ward's efforts impressed other teams and earned the respect of Guam coaches.

He added that he has never known a fighting spirit stronger than what Villegas possesses.

Coach Kimura said there are only four swimmers who have ever swam faster than 29 seconds in the 50m freestyle and now Villegas is one of them.

"When he started swimming only last year, his first time trial result was 35 seconds. His improvement is nothing short of impressive. Unfortunately, he is leaving Saipan this summer to go to college. We wish him the success he will surely find. Tsunami Saipan would like to thank him for the inspiration he has brought to the team," he said.

While Villegas' two medals in the relay were the high points of Tsunami Saipan's stint in the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships, there were other shining moments for the other members during the meet.

As expected, Wong won the High Point trophy in the open division after winning eight medals. The Marianas High School student struck gold in the 100m and 200m breaststroke and 200m and 400m individual medley. He also collected silver medals in the 50m breastroke, 100m backstroke, and 50m butterfly, and a bronze in the 50m freestyle.

Incidentally, Wong's performance in the 100m and 200m breaststroke events actually were new CNMI national and age group records, respectively.

Marystar Welch, for her part, took third place overall in the girls' 13-14 years old age group after winning silver medals in all the events she participated in. Her best event was the 200m IM.

Coach Kimura is convinced that Welch has the ability to dominate and become the newest female swimming superstar of the Commonwealth.

"What makes her effort so impressive is that as a younger child she suffered from rheumatic fever and was on medication for years. To this day, the illness has not been overcome but her determination and skill in the pool are proof of her potential," he said.

Shin Kimura, meanwhile, soldiered on despite badly spraining his ankle a day before the meet.

Bandaged ankle and all, he advanced to the finals of the 800m freestyle and helped Tsunami Saipan win the two bronze medals for Villegas in the freestyle and medley relays.

"Shin endured the pain in order to help win medals for his teammate, Daniel. If Shin didn't swim, Tsunami Saipan could not take part in the relay because we only had four male swimmers. He was very satisfied because he helped Daniel earn two medals. This is the kind of close-knit team camaraderie that makes Tsunami Saipan a success," said coach Kimura.

Shin's younger brother, Kensuke, meanwhile, won a gold medal in 200m breastroke, silvers in the 50m and 100m breaststroke, and bronzes in the medley and freestyle relays.

He also broke the long-standing CNMI age group record in the 200m breaststroke. Last year, Kensuke broke one of the oldest CNMI records that was set in 1980 by 1998 Seoul Olympian Jonathan Sakovich, son of Bill and Jean Sakovich.

"This was a record nobody had been able to break for 27 years," exclaimed coach Kimura. "Kensuke's breaking this record is simply amazing. Sports readers in the community old enough to remember the glory days of Saipan swimming under the Sakoviches know how they dominated the entire Western Pacific. With athletes such as Rezne, Kensuke, Shin, Marystar, and other younger swimmers coming of age, Tsunami Saipan has a vision to once again dominate the sport throughout Micronesia," said coach Kimura.

MIEKO

From Page 44

RA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon winner Andy Noble, who gave her a weekly training regimen to follow

She said the schedule was difficult at first but that she has gotten used to it the past two months.

Mieko has been training six days a week at least two hours a day since she finished first in the women's division of the Guam XTERRA last March.

"Each day was different. Monday was always a day off and Tuesday was usually a long run with a swim in the afternoon. Wednesday, meanwhile, consisted of one-and-a-half- to two-hour bike with sprints mixed in and a swim in the afternoon. Thursday was an hour or so run with sprints mixed in. Friday was sort of an easy ride. Saturday was run with sprints and ocean swim in the afternoon and Sundays were two-three hour rides with sprints followed by a run. It sounds like a lot, but it is actually pretty fun. Hopefully it will all pay off," she said.

Aside from the challenge of entering the Kansas Ironman, Mieko is also excited to try out her new Giant Advanced road bike she specially bought for the race.

Mieko and Kevin will compete in the Kansan Ironman despite the former sustaining injuries early Tuesday morning after being struck by falling pieces of concrete being carried by a white/gray cement truck speeding down the backroad near San Vicente School.

Her husband Kevin said while other motorists stopped to help Mieko after she fell, the driver of the truck sped off.

He said Mikeo's cut is not that bad, but the bone bruise may prevent her from doing well in the race after months of training.

"She is very disappointed. She said that it was fortunate that it struck her and not some child walking to school. It could have done much more damage," said Kevin.

SAIPAN

From Page 44

bunch of all-star players into one cohesive all-star team.

"The past four months they've been playing with another group of players. They already have a groove playing with their original teams and now trying to get that away from them in a span of one week is tough. They already have the skill, they have the mental game, and they have the emotion in them. They're all all-star players. The only thing they need to improve on is the way they communicate with one another," said Sablan.

The 2008 Saipan Junior All-Stars include Jets' Harry Nakamura, Joe Palacios, McGarett Duenas, and Anthony Salas, Ol'Aces' Lamarc Iguel, Rocco Reyes, Jesse Yamagishi, and Diego Camacho, Fielders' Nathan De Leon Guerrero and Peter Tenorio, and Lion Heart's Leroy Regis and Dela Cruz brothers Richard and Ricardo.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	37	25	.597	_
Tampa Bay	35	24	.593	1/2
Toronto	32	29	.525	4 1/2
New York	29	30	.492	6 1/2
Baltimore	28	30	.483	7

Central Division

Chicago	32	26	.552	_
Minnesota	31	28	.525	1 1/2
Cleveland	27	32	.458	5 1/2
Detroit	24	35	.407	8 1/2
Kansas City	23	36	.390	9 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	37	24	.607	_
Oakland	33	27	.550	3 1/2
Texas	30	31	.492	7
Seattle	21	39	.350	15 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	35	26	.574	_
Florida	32	26	.552	1 1/2
Atlanta	31	29	.517	3 1/2
New York	30	28	.517	3 1/2
Washington	24	35	.407	10

Central Division

Chicago	38	22	.633	_
St. Louis	35	25	.583	3
Milwaukee	32	28	.533	6
Houston	31	29	.517	7
Cincinnati	29	31	.483	9
Pittsburgh	28	31	.475	9 1/2

West Division

Arizona	32	28	.533	_
Los Angeles	28	31	.475	3 1/2
San Francisco	25	35	.417	7
San Diego	24	37	.393	8 1/2
Colorado	22	38	.367	10

Yesterday's Games

Florida 6, Atlanta 4
Milwaukee 10, Arizona 1
Colorado 2, L.A. Dodgers 1
N.Y. Mets 5, San Francisco 3
Pittsburgh 5, Houston 2
Cincinnati 2, Philadelphia 0
St. Louis at Washington, ppd., rain
San Diego 2, Chicago Cubs 1
Oakland 10, Detroit 2
L.A. Angels 5, Seattle 4
Boston 5, Tampa Bay 1
N.Y. Yankees 5, Toronto 1
Cleveland 15, Texas 9
Minnesota 7, Baltimore 5
Chicago White Sox 6, Kansas City 4, 15 innings

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2008 Guam Swimming Championships

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center teams up with its sister team Tsunami Guam in cheering for their swimmers during the 2008 Swimming Championships held last May 30 and 31 in the Hagatna Pool.

Tsunami Saipan joined Guam swimmers for a special practice at Leo Palace Resort. The pool is where national teams from many countries practice and is also the stadium for the Junior Pan Pacific Championships set this coming spring.

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura awaits his turn to start practice at the Leo Palace Resort swimming pool.

Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong and other swimmers before the start of their practice session at Leo Palace Resort.

The awards ceremony for the 800m boy's freestyle open division. From left, Daijyu Usui (silver), Tsunami Guam's Tetsuya Iijima (gold), and Tsunami Saipan's Shin Kimura (bronze).

The award ceremony for the boys' 11-12 100m breaststroke. From left, Marlins Guam's Eric Tao (bronze), Tarakito Swim Club's Benji Schulte (gold), and Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura (silver).

The award ceremony for the boys open 100m breastroke division. From left, Tsunami Guam's Tetsuya Iijima (silver), Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong (gold), and Tsunami Guam's Ryan Tangi (bronze).

The award ceremony for the girls' 13-14 200m freestyle. From left, Tsunami Saipan's Marystar Welch (silver), Tsunami Guam's Meari Ema (gold), and Vo Madoka (bronze).

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura and Tsunami Guam's Sojyu Usui and Keita Yoshida pose in the pool.

After the awards ceremony, Tsunami Saipan's Daniel Villegas poses with Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura.

SSC Golf Tournament still a go tomorrow
The 2008 Saipan Swim Club Golf Tournament will tee off as planned tomorrow, June 7, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. SSC head coach Michael Stewart said the fundraising tournament will have a showtime of 6am with shotgun start scheduled at 7am.
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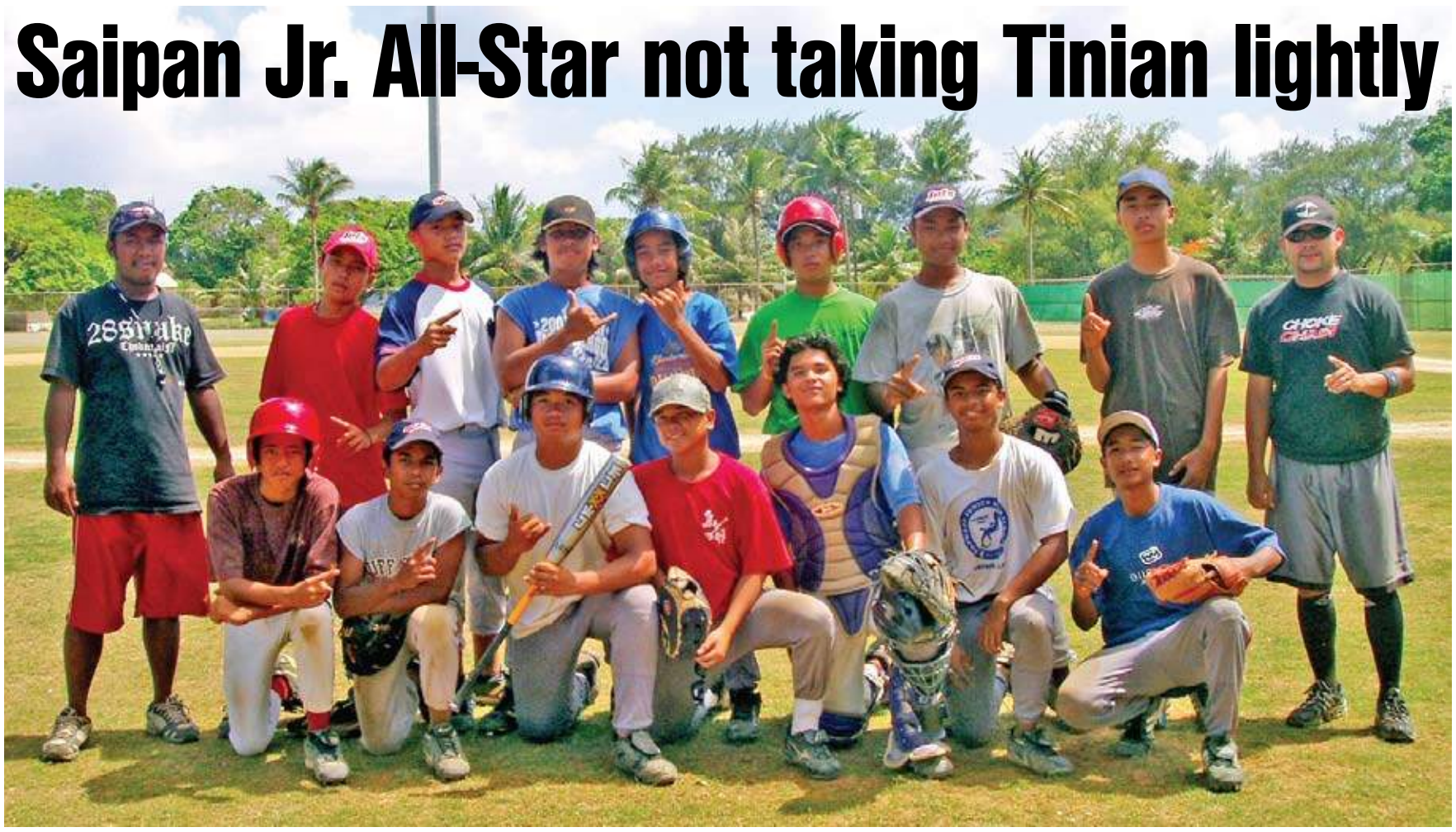
Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lakers and Celtics set to rekindle Finals rivalry
They're like long, lost fraternity brothers who left college with bad haircuts and wearing those thigh-hugging short shorts that were fashionable during the Reagan years. They drifted to opposite coasts and barely kept in touch.
39

Saipan Jr. All-Star not taking Tinian lightly



MARK RABAGO
Saipan Junior All-Stars manager Vinnie Sablan joins his 15-man roster for a photo during a break in their six-hour practice session yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field. Also in photo are head coach Wally Emul and assistant coach Oliver Secharmidal.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

While no Little League team from Tinian has ever advanced to the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament, Saipan Junior All-Stars manager Vinnie Sablan is not taking any chances and told his team to go all out in their three-game series against the Tinian Junior All-Stars this weekend at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The past two days, the 15-man team has been practicing from 10am to 4pm at the Oleai Sports Complex under the watchful eye of Sablan and coaches Wally Emul and Oliver Secharmidal.

Sablan said he has already told his players to approach the Junior League District Tournament as if it were the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament.

"I stressed it from the very beginning that just because it's a district tournament—and in the past Saipan has always beaten Tinian—that it's a given that we would win. Anything can happen in baseball. That's why I told them to play Tinian as if they're playing Indonesia, Guam, the Philippines, or any other team for that matter," he said.

Sablan added that the Little League format, which mandates participating teams to play a round robin and then a championship game even if there are only two teams, opens up a number of tempting scenarios for managers.

But Sablan's focus is to try to sweep all three matches against Tinian this weekend.

"We just want to win all the games. That's the easiest way to put it. Not lose the first two or win the first one and lose the second one. We want to build momentum starting in the first, play better in the second game, and play our best baseball in the championship game on Sunday," he said.

Sablan said he expects the Saipan Junior All-Stars to score a lot of runs against Tinian this weekend and hopefully hold their own in defense against the boys from the neighboring island.

"I want them to get in tune and have them play together for the Asia-Pacific Tournament which is the next level of play. I expect superb pitching from our No. 1 pitchers and superb hitting from all the players against Tinian," he said.

He said, so far, the biggest challenge has been molding a

See SAIPAN on Page 42

Mieko Carey to compete in Ironman Kansas

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

One of the CNMI's top triathletes will take part in the 2008 Ironman Kansas 70.3 race set this coming June 15 in Lawrence.

Meiko Carey and her husband Kevin will leave for Kansas on June 12 to compete in the 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike, and 13.1-mile run triathlon.

Mieko, who hopes to finish the race in just over five hours, said she prepared for the Kansas Ironman with the help of 2008 XTER-

See MIEKO on Page 42

MARK RABAGO
Mieko Carey crosses the finish line of the 2008 XTERRA Saipan Championships at the American Memorial Park.

Detroit Red Wings win 11th Stanley Cup

AP
The Detroit Red Wings pose with the Stanley Cup after defeating the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-2 in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup hockey finals in Pittsburgh, Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

By IRA PODELL
AP HOCKEY WRITER

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Oil up the Winged Wheel, it's time for another victory parade. Hockeytown is home to the Stanley Cup - again.

For the fourth time in 11 seasons, the Detroit Red Wings are the Stanley Cup champions. They used experience and grit to knock out the young up-and-coming Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday night with a 3-2 victory in Game 6 of the finals.

Following in the footsteps of Gordie Howe and Steve Yzerman, new captain Nicklas Lidstrom led the Red Wings to the title. Detroit's 11th NHL

See DETROIT on Page 42

Daniel wins medals in final meet

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

First-year Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmer Daniel Villegas finally medaled in his final competition before leaving for college in the mainland this summer.

The 17-year-old Villegas bagged bronze medals in the freestyle and medley relays after teaming up

See DANIEL on Page 42

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan members that competed in last weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships pose in the Hagatna Pool. From left, Marystar Welch, Shin Kimura, Rezne Wong, Kensuke Kimura, and Daniel Villegas.